



**Permanent Mission
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
to the United Nations – New York**

STATEMENT

BY

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Agenda Item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you and the members of the bureau on your election, and assuring you of our full support during the work of this session of the Committee. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we are once again discussing the agenda item: "Measures to eliminate International Terrorism" at a time when international terrorism not only remains a daunting challenge, but is one which has grown larger and more sophisticated in nature and methods. Terrorism is a threat that violates all basic human rights and principles of international law, including the core tenets of the UN Charter.

As a primary victim and the frontline state in the war against terrorism, Afghanistan has suffered gravely from the effects of this menace. In consecutive years, Afghanistan has been reported to be the country with the highest number of victims from terrorism. Nevertheless, the resolve of our people and security forces in combating this threat remains as strong as ever.

Our brave National Defense and Security Forces continue to make sacrifices in the fight with a network of more than 20 international terrorist groups, whose agenda goes beyond our borders and who aim to destabilize the wider region and the world at large. It is a clear fact that the Taliban provide an enabling environment for all these terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan

On the battlefield, this year, Afghan security forces were able to repulse many attacks by the insurgents and prevent them from capturing and asserting control of territory. Failure of recent attempts by the Taliban to capture the provincial capitals of Kunduz and Baghlan provinces testifies to the ability, bravery and resolve of our security forces. Most recently, they demonstrated the level of their capabilities in providing a secure environment during our presidential elections, in which our people once again defied

terrorist threats and exercised their fundamental right to determine their political destiny and consolidate democracy in our country.

Facing setbacks on the battlefield, the Taliban and Da'esh have substantially increased attacks on soft targets across Afghanistan - targeting public institutions and infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, mosques, wedding halls and electricity towers in order to attract media attention, create an atmosphere of fear among ordinary Afghans, and prevent the normal functioning of the society.

These insurgents still receive a robust flow of weapons, funding and manpower from abroad and continue to enjoy safe havens outside our territory. To address this issue, we have been engaged with Pakistan in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral platforms to ensure that more visible progress can be achieved in counter-terrorism cooperation. In this regard, we stress the need for the implementation of decisions made in various platforms, including in the context of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS), as well as in the Afghanistan-Pakistan leaders' summit in June and the 3rd Afghanistan-Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in September this year.

Mr. Chairman,

In the global context, countering terrorism requires concrete measures across various areas, including: preventing any implicit or explicit support to terrorist groups, combating terrorist narratives and extremist ideologies, and-very importantly- addressing the problem of illicit financial flows.

The imperative of denying support to terrorists by state elements has a strong base in International Law, including the UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions. It is also highlighted in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, of which the 6th Review took place last year. We look forward to the 7th review of the Strategy that will take place in June 2020. We also reiterate our call for the better enforcement of the UN Security Council sanctions regime to target the operational capabilities of terrorist groups.

On countering extremist ideologies, we need to underscore the role of religious scholars in condemning terrorism as contradictory to the values and tenets of all religions, including Islam. As proven time and again, terrorism cannot be attributed to any religion, nationality or race, and must be considered as a threat to all humanity.

In the case of Afghanistan, we are grateful to those countries who have, in the past years, hosted international conferences of Islamic scholars to delegitimize the ongoing war against the Afghan Government. The holding of the bilateral Afghanistan-Pakistan Ulema Conference remains a necessary additional step to be taken in this regard.

Moreover, we need to pay greater focus to addressing the link between terrorism and its various sources of finance, including illegal extraction of natural resources; money-laundering and trafficking of narcotic drugs. A renewed approach to this issue requires enhanced cooperation at both regional and global levels.

Afghanistan is tackling the problem of narcotic drugs as part of our comprehensive efforts to combat terrorism, improve security and promote the well-being of our citizens. Through our comprehensive counter-narcotics strategy – which includes efforts in law enforcement, eradication, and public awareness – we succeeded in reducing the poppy cultivated land by twenty-percent last year.

In this regard, I want to stress the need to address the problem of terror financing with a sustainable and comprehensive approach, which should include further cooperation on information sharing, border security and management, and strengthening legal frameworks to curb illicit financial flows.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to the need for addressing the root causes of terrorism, we cannot understate the importance of supporting victims of this evil menace.

This year, Afghanistan was honored to facilitate the unanimous adoption of yet another UN General Assembly Resolution on this matter, entitled “Enhancement of International Cooperation to Assist Victims of Terrorism.” This initiative is reflective of our firm commitment to ensuring that victims of terrorism are provided with necessary financial, moral, psychological and other support.

On 25 June, together with our Spanish friends, we launched the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, which will serve to promote and protect the human rights of the victims and to advocate for their diverse needs. We are glad that the first Ministerial Meeting of the Group took place on the sideline of the 74th UN General Assembly here in New York.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I want to reiterate the importance we attach to the role of the United Nations in strengthening the global response to terrorism. We look forward to fruitful discussions in this session of the Committee's work to finalize the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). We also support the ongoing efforts to hold a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations with a view to adopting a common approach in countering terrorism.

I would also like to reaffirm Afghanistan's longstanding commitment to combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Our historic fight against this phenomenon is one which we have proudly fought for more than two decades, and will continue to fight, for the interest of our security and stability and that of the international community at large.

I thank you Mr. Chairman,