



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
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**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly
under agenda item 109: "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election.

Terrorism and related criminal activities continue to represent a serious threat to international peace and security, to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the social and economic development of all Member States. These activities are unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, constitute serious crimes and must be condemned and prosecuted. The instances of shielding and glorification of terrorists may not be tolerated.

Azerbaijan knows about the scourge of terrorism, and not from hearsay. Since the end of the 1980s, as a means of realizing groundless and unlawful territorial claims and as a method of warfare, externally directed terrorist attacks have been repeatedly perpetrated against my country, claiming the lives of thousands of its citizens.

It is curious that those responsible for terrorist acts, massacres of civilians and destruction and desecration of cultural and religious sites in other countries speak now about targeting of ethnic and religious communities elsewhere. Such cynical selectivity is unacceptable and must be resolutely rejected.

Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often create fertile ground for terrorists, organized criminal groups and networks, along with States behind them, to benefit from exploitation of natural resources, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in cultural property, money-laundering and other crimes.

In addition, the accumulation of armaments and ammunition in those territories beyond international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

The strict compliance by all States with their international obligations, including the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, is critical to ensure, *inter alia*, that their respective territories are not used for terrorist and related criminal activities, in particular for terrorist installations, training camps, the preparation of terrorist acts against other States, financing of and providing, directly or indirectly, any support to such activities under whatever pretext or disguise.

Terrorist acts committed in the context of armed conflict may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, thus entailing individual criminal responsibility. In this connection, in addition to measures that States are entitled to take at the national level to assert criminal jurisdiction over crimes perpetrated by their nationals overseas, international cooperation in criminal matters, with mutual legal assistance as its component, is the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related offences.

With an increase of terrorist acts, including those motivated by intolerance, extremism and racist ideology, comprehensive and integrative approaches to combating this scourge through concerted and coordinated international actions are vital. Azerbaijan strongly supports enhanced individual and collective counter-terrorism measures towards that end.

We recognize that significant efforts have been made by the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations to promote cooperation and coordination and to strengthen the capacities of Member States in combating international terrorism and organized crime. It is important that these efforts continue and expand.

Azerbaijan reiterates its determination to actively contribute to the process of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would complement the existing legal framework of international counter-terrorism instruments.

Last but not least, the war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. Azerbaijan welcomes the launching by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites.

Among other efforts, support by the United Nations for successful initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, the culture of peace and multiculturalism is essential for promoting tolerance and overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions.

The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, convened biennially by the Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNESCO, the Alliance of Civilizations, the World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has become a key global platform for promoting intercultural dialogue, as promulgated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 72/136 and 73/129.

The Fifth World Forum, which was held this May in Baku, focused on dialogue as an instrument for action against discrimination, inequality and violent conflict. I would like to particularly mention the side event, organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism on the margins of the Forum, to showcase good practices to engage and partner with youth to build resilience to violent extremism, specifically by addressing discrimination and inequalities through innovative approaches.

Azerbaijan is keen to continue actively participating and contributing to global counter-terrorist efforts and international cooperation.

Thank you.