



**United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee**  
**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**  
8-10 October 2019

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and all the members of the Bureau for your appointments.

Brazil wishes to reaffirm its total condemnation of all acts of terrorism as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and to reiterate our commitment to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The repudiation of terrorism is enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution as a guiding principle of our foreign policy. Our commitment to fighting terrorism has also been translated into domestic legislation. Earlier this year, we have passed a bill to facilitate the immediate implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning sanctions against individuals and entities affiliated with terrorist organizations. Coupled with previous legislative changes, this measure brings the Brazilian regulatory framework completely within the standards of the Financial Action Task Force.

Consistent with our commitment to fight this scourge, and while recognizing that the primary responsibility for countering terrorism rests with member states, we have engaged in all relevant debates in the United Nations. More specifically, the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly has an important role to play in completing the counter-terrorism framework that member states have been building for more than fifty years now. Our work should complement, and not duplicate the discussions that take place at plenary for the biannual review of the UN Counter-terrorism Strategy. We should, therefore, take advantage of the added value of the Sixth Committee and focus here on the outstanding legal questions in the realm of counter-terrorism.

The current patchwork of sectoral conventions prohibiting well-specified acts related to terrorism lacks the unity and coherence that the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism would provide. There is a need to overcome the stalemate in the negotiating processes leading to adoption of the CCIT and to the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the UN. Filling this unjustifiable legal gap would contribute to reinvigorate the rule of law dimension of counter-terrorism, a

precondition for its effectiveness. It would also create adequate conditions for ensuring that measures adopted at regional and national levels respect the due process of law and comply with human rights.

We are conscious that taking the final step of this legal task will require a strong political push. This is why Brazil argues that convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the UN - another collective pending from the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document - could provide the momentum needed to build the necessary bridges. Last year, the Secretary-General organized the first-ever UN High Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism, generating political attention aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation. The next conference of this kind should be seized as an opportunity to conclude the CCIT - and the preparatory process could take place in the realm a reconvened Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Another pressing legal issue - which is intrinsically linked to the stalemate in the negotiations of CCIT - is the definition of terrorism. The absence of a universally agreed-upon definition is detrimental to our shared goal of eliminating international terrorism. The emergence of new expressions, such as radicalism and violent extremism, may add additional confusion, both in understanding the causes and in seeking the best ways to prevent and counter these phenomena.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil would caution against attempts to depart from the current collective security system towards actions that could reflect pre-Charter understandings on the use of force. Particularly, the conditions for any reinterpretation of Article 51 are very strict. It is important to ensure continued compliance with the norms of self-defense, which is a response to an armed attack undertaken by or attributable to a state, as the International Court of Justice has mentioned in previous occasions.

Counter-terrorism efforts will be more sustainable and effective if consistent with the UN Charter and other norms of international law, including human rights, humanitarian and refugee laws. If counter-terrorism takes place at the expense of international legal parameters, it will have defeated its purpose - and maybe contributed to generating additional extremism conducive to terrorism.

Thank you.