



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE

SIXTH COMMITTEE

ON

AGENDA ITEM 109:
"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

DURING THE

74th SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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KENYA
AU ENDORSED CANDIDATE FOR
UN SECURITY COUNCIL
2021 - 2022

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your deserving election. I assure you of my delegation's cooperation and support throughout the work of the Committee.

Kenya associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Permanent Representative of Zambia on behalf of the African Group. I also wish to thank the Secretary General for his report on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

To counter international terrorism, implementation of international conventions, Security Council Resolution and domestic counter terrorism legislation and policies are critical. But these are only effective if they are supported by global solidarity that leads to cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance.

Kenya has ratified and domesticated International conventions against transnational organized crimes including the relevant protocols on terrorism and associated crimes such as money laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking and corruption and is implementing Security Council Resolutions on fighting terrorism. We have prioritized the development of counter terrorism policies and strategies and have enhanced efforts to counter the financing of terrorism and extremism. We have also progressively amended all our security laws to strengthen Kenya's anti-terror legislative framework and created agencies to deal specially with the terror threat. These include the establishment of the anti-terrorism police unit, a bomb disposal unit and a cyber forensics investigative unit.

Kenya has also domesticated the UN Global Strategy and the Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism through its National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE). The National Counterterrorism Centre has been active in coordinating efforts against radicalization and extremism with much success.

Regionally, Kenya has forged strong law enforcement and judicial cooperation partnerships within the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Great Lakes Region. We support the formulation of regional NSCVE strategies to address crosscutting push and pull factors.

We also commend France and New Zealand for spearheading the Christchurch Call and applaud the efforts to combat terrorist exploitation of a free, open and secure internet. The protection of the internet is critical in the enhancement of inclusiveness and fostering economic growth. We also welcome the Aqaba Process which seeks to comprehensively

address interconnected counter-terrorism and violent extremist threats through informal and regional discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya has adopted the “all of government” and “all of society” approach to preventing and countering terrorism and we have aligned our counter terrorism strategy with County Governments action Plans on countering terrorism. We are hopeful that these efforts will assist us to better detect early signs of radicalization and thwart terrorist plots by strengthening community policing, involving women and youth in peace and security and creating community awareness.

Mr. Chairman

In the Horn of Africa, an Al Qaeda affiliate, Al Shabaab, is destabilizing the region and murdering thousands of innocent people. Al Shabaab’s ability to maintain a steady stream of income through illegal means is a major contributor to its resilience. The group raises funds through multiple channels such as illegal taxation, kidnapping for ransom, donations from sympathisers and through diversion of humanitarian aid among other illegal means. We urge for a serious and sustained international effort to cut off its flow of finances by ensuring appropriate sanctions and for convictions of those who fund the group.

For Kenya, even strong efforts to sanction and Combat the Financing of Terrorism are unlikely to have lasting success while Al Shabaab continues to hold territory in Somalia. Any attempts to normalize al Shabaab or to label it in any other language other than as a global terrorist organization affiliated to Al Qaeda will create a monster that will destroy many more lives and probably not just in the Horn of Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

In July 10-11 this year in Nairobi, Kenya together with the UN and African Union, Co-hosted the United Nations High Level Conference on Counter terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. We wish to once again thank the Secretary General and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov the Under-Secretary-General of the UN Counter Terrorism Office for attending this Conference. With the hosting of this conference, Kenya affirmed its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism in finding solutions to global challenges such as the evolving threat of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to share a few of the outcomes of the Conference which were captured in a Co-Chair’s summary and reached key deliverables which included:

1. Agreement to strengthen African regional and sub-regional counterterrorism cooperation, within the scope of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

2. The holding of an annual counterterrorism dialogue between the United Nations and the African Union, and incorporating regional bodies henceforth.
3. An announcement by the United Nations of the intention to establish an inter-agency platform in Kenya to facilitate coordination of regional counterterrorism work.
4. Kenya and the United Nations also agreed to host a side-event to present the outcomes of the Conference on the margins of the High-Level Conference on counterterrorism that will be held in New York in June 2020.

Mr. Chairman,

The greatest service we can give to victims of terrorism is to ensure that terrorist groups like Al Shabaab hold no territory anywhere on the globe. Legislation, policy frameworks and use of military though critical are not enough. We need to ensure that terrorist groups do not have the space to rule any group of civilians anywhere in the world. Kenya will continue pressing for the protection of economies and humanitarian operations from terrorist fundraising, and we believe that the Security Council already has the appropriate tools should it choose to use them to prevent more attacks in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, as the threat from terrorism continues to evolve, we need to adapt and learn lessons from what works and what does not. The need to strengthen the capacities of counter-terrorism structures and institutions and building the resilience and cohesion of our societies cannot be gainsaid. Kenya greatly appreciates the continued strong partnership with the United Nations Office for Counterterrorism and specifically with USG Vladimir Voronkov as well as our continued collaboration with other partners, both bilateral and multilateral.

Kenya will remain committed to the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy and other international protocols against terrorism. We look forward to actively participate in the review of UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy in June 2020 as well as the 1st UN Congress on Victims of terrorism, also in June 2020.

Thank you for your kind attention.