

Statement by Saudi Arabia on behalf of the OIC Group
Before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
On “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”
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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the OIC Group on the agenda item “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee, and I would like to assure you of the OIC Group’s full support throughout the work of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC Group condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motivations, the identity of the perpetrator and the location it was committed. The OIC group reaffirms that terrorism constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the right to life. Terrorist acts endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security.

The OIC Group reiterates its respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter.

The Group reaffirms that terrorism could not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture or society. The Group strongly condemns any attempt to link Islam with terrorism to achieve narrow interests, such attempts play into the hands of terrorists and constitute advocacy of religious hatred, discrimination and hostility against Muslims.

The OIC firmly rejects targeting Muslim minorities during Covid-19, blaming them for the local transmission of it. In what the Secretary General described: “As Covid-19 spread, a tsunami of misinformation, hate speech, scapegoating and scare-mongering has been unleashed”

Accordingly, we reiterate the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world, and welcome all regional and international initiatives and efforts to that end.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC Group also reaffirms its commitment to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The group believes that it is essential to follow a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism. This should be done by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, festering international disputes, and political marginalization and alienation. Moreover, it is necessary to combat all terrorist groups and organizations wherever they exist without any distinction.

The OIC requests the Secretary General to reach-out, in cooperation with Member States, to relevant UN Mechanisms to broaden the scope of 1267 sanctions by including in its scope the individuals and entities associated with anti-Muslim racist extremist groups for effectively responding to this evolving threat of terrorism.

Furthermore, the Group believes that it is essential that Member States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of the terrorist acts, preventing providing any finance, safe havens, assistance or weapons to terrorist groups and organizations. It is also imperative to enhance the cooperation and coordination to refute the narratives and ideologies of the terrorist groups and organization.

Once again, the Group reiterates the need to distinguish between terrorism and the exercise of legitimate right of people to resist foreign occupation and would like to stress that this distinction is duly observed in International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and the General Assembly resolution 46/51 which also endorses this position.

The OIC reaffirms that the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GA resolution 60/288) constitutes an ongoing effort and is a living document, which should be up-dated and re-examined regularly. The Group also reaffirms that the Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced manner in all its aspects. We stress on the importance of enhancing capacity-building of Member States to assist them in the implementation of various obligations of UN resolutions, through increasing the resources for UN entities and departments entrusted with this task, as well as enhancing bilateral technical assistance and transfer of technology. In this regard, the OIC recognizes the role played towards that end by the United Nations Center for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT).

The OIC looks forward towards the convening of a second-high level conference under the auspices of the United Nations in order to formulate a joint organized response by the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.
