



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
315 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 689-7215, FAX (212) 689-9073

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA ON ITEM 114: “MEASURES TO ELIMINATE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”
New York, 6, 7 and 12 October 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, we congratulate you and the members of the Bureau for your election and assure you of the full cooperation and support of Cuba for the development of a fruitful 75th session of the Sixth Committee.

We thank the Secretary-General for presenting his report A/75/176.

Cuba’s vigorous action and condemnation of terrorism is absolute and categorical against all terrorist acts, methods and practices, in all forms and manifestations by whomsoever, against whomever and wherever committed, regardless their motivation, including those in which governments are directly or indirectly involved.

Terrorism cannot and should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. The fight against terrorism must be addressed in a holistic manner, through direct actions also aimed at the prevention to eradicate its root causes.

We reaffirm the value of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the primary responsibility of States to implement it in a transparent manner. Cuba supports multilateral efforts aimed at consolidating the central role of the UNGA in implementing said strategy.

We condemn any action aimed at encouraging, supporting, financing or concealing any terrorist act, method or practice, as well as unilateral acts and mechanisms of certain States, such as the US, that claim to be in the right to draw up politically motivated lists, contrary to international law, which undermine the central authority of the UNGA in combating terrorism.

Despite the existing bilateral mechanisms for cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the Department of State has arbitrarily and unilaterally included Cuba in the list of countries that supposedly do not fully cooperate in the fight against terrorism. This list, well-known for its lack of foundation, authority or international support, seeks defamation and coercion against countries that refuse to abide by the will of the US government in their sovereign decisions.

Paradoxically, the US government has chosen not to recognize the terrorist nature of the attack perpetrated by Alexander Alazo against the Embassy of Cuba in Washington last April; despite the fact that this individual endangered the lives and safety of the personnel of that diplomatic Mission by machine-gunning the building with an AK-47 rifle which fired 32 bullets and that also acknowledged in a public hearing that he had the intention to kill.

By refusing to characterize this serious attack as terrorist, the US government disregards the implementation of international instruments such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, listed as one of the UN system conventions on terrorism and of which both countries are Party.

This terrorist act is the direct result of the aggressive policy and hate speech by the US government against Cuba, and the permanent incitement to violence by its politicians, including senior officials of the Department of State; as well as by anti-Cuban extremist groups that have made this type of attacks their means of living.

The groups and individuals who have committed terrorist actions in the past have operated with impunity on US soil for years, of which the US law enforcement agencies are fully aware. An example of this is the case of the notorious terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who died a free man, despite having confessed to be the mastermind of the

Cubana de Aviación aircraft mid-air explosion, which resulted in the death of 73 persons.

44 years after this event, Cubans are outraged that justice has not been served for the victims of this horrific crime.

Cuba firmly rejects the manipulation of an issue as sensitive as international terrorism so that it can become a policy instrument against any country.

Finally, we reiterate our support for and commitment to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to overcome existing legal loopholes in the definition of terrorism, which is an imperative in order to fill the gaps and omissions in the existing legal framework.

Thank you.