

Statement by Turkey at the Sixth Committee for the 75th Session of the General Assembly under agenda item 114: "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" (6 October 2020)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express our congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau on your election. You have Turkish delegation's full support and cooperation.

Terrorism continues to be one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It is the common enemy of mankind.

The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic inevitably affected terrorist and criminal groups. However, it did not deter them to seek new ways to operate and continue their activities.

A number of UN reports point out that these groups have directed their activities to online platforms. We should be more responsive and innovative in the face of evolving nature the way terrorist organizations operate.

Thus, despite the historic challenges we face this year, countering-terrorism remains a crucial agenda item for all of us. Stopping terrorists and bringing them to justice is as urgent as ever.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and pay respect to the memories of all the victims of terrorism. Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group.

In our view, terrorism should be addressed within the framework of a holistic strategy.

Lasting results in combating global threat of terrorism can only be achieved through effective international cooperation.

The international community must act with equal determination against all terrorist organizations. A selective approach with regard to terrorist organizations is counterproductive for our collective security. Fighting against one terrorist organization while relying upon support from other leads to serious flaws in overall countering terrorism efforts. A principled stance against all terrorist organizations is a prerequisite for a viable success in the fight against terrorism.

Necessary measures should be promoted to ensure deterrent punishments for perpetrators of terrorist acts, as well as for those who provide financial support to and involve in propaganda of terrorism.

It is regrettable that that members of terrorist organizations are still allowed to exploit the right to asylum in certain countries to circumvent justice. To avoid such outcome, the principle of "extradite or prosecute" should universally be implemented.

Addressing the issue of FTFs and their families has gained utmost urgency throughout last year.

FTFs has direct implications for Turkey's security and for the countries beyond our borders. For that reason, bilaterally and in every multilateral fora, including the UN and Global Coalition Against Daesh, we have been advocating the view that temporary and legally unsound fixes on preventing FTF returns will not resolve this security problem

Detention of FTFs should not be left to other terrorist groups. Member states should avoid actions that would, even though implicitly and inadvertently, provide legitimacy the other terrorist organizations on the ground.

For years, in close cooperation and coordination with their source countries, Turkey has been deporting thousands of foreign nationals with suspect of being a FTF. To date, Turkey deported more than 8.000 (8.072) foreign nationals suspected of being a FTF. Furthermore, we have included about a hundred thousand (99.070) foreign nationals who have proven connections with international terrorism in our **no-entry list database**.

We will continue to pursue a proactive approach in deporting FTFs and their families to their source countries. We will further encourage other countries to take back their own nationals. Turkey will also continue to support international efforts to keep repatriation of FTFs high on international agenda.

Mr Chairman,

Turkey has been at the forefront of countering terrorist organizations with a broad spectrum of ideologies, be it DAESH, Al-Qaida, PKK/YPG or FETÖ, for years.

2020 marked a year of success in Turkey's counter-terrorism efforts.

Our security operations curtailed their ability to plan and perpetrate acts of violence in Turkey and other countries.

Turkey has been contributing to the activities of international organizations and working groups aimed at enhancing international and regional cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. Turkey is an active member of the Global Coalition Against DAESH and is co-chairing its Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

Mr. Chairman,

Upholding human rights while countering terrorism and to ensure that all measures taken are consistent with our relevant international obligations is a must for the legitimacy of our efforts for countering terrorism.

We see the UN as the main platform for promoting a collective and coherent response against terrorism and violent extremism.

With this in mind, and with reference to emerging currents and trends in terrorism, we do support further development of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We will continue to support to the implementation of the Strategy's "four pillars".

We are committed to contribute to advance the UN's efforts for robust international cooperation on countering terrorism.

We will continue to cooperate with and contribute to the work and capacity building efforts of the UNODC, UNOCT and UNCCT.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey will continue to work with Member States on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

Thank you.