

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**  
**ON AGENDA ITEM 114: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE**  
**INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF**  
**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**  
**WEDNESDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2020**

At the outset, let me join others who have spoken before me in congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of my delegation's cooperation throughout this session. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of Iran and the Republic of South Africa, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Africa Group respectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This debate comes at a time that most countries are making tireless efforts to manage with the COVID-19 pandemic, which brings in its wake significant threat to the health, safety, and wellbeings of their citizenry. However, the comity of nations must not loose sight of the fact that terrorism is equally a threat that must not be underestimated. The threat of terrorism has assumed an even more degree of intensity now than ever. Ghana wishes to commend the COVID-19 related measures taken by Governments around the world that have contributed to the suppression of the activities of violent extremist and terrorist groups. However, we must not rest on our oars as violent extremist and terrorist organizations can still take advantage of the circumstances and worsen the situation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It must be noted that terrorist organizations thrive on chaotic situations such as this pandemic, as wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19 have the potential to further exacerbate grievances, undermine social cohesion and fuel conflict and these are very conducive for

the spread of violent extremist and terrorist activities. It is worth mentioning that there are disruptions in planned activities by governments around the world as a result of the pandemic, thus creating uncertainty and economic hardships, hate and division, also provide fertile grounds for terrorist groups to radicalize and recruit new followers. In some parts of the world, Islamic State and al-Qaida have adapted to the pandemic situation and through their networks can ramp up attacks.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We have been living with issues of cyberattacks against state institutions such as healthcare and our current situation is conducive for terrorists. Ghana, therefore, calls on the international community to act in unison and solidarity, particularly as we mark the United Nations 75th anniversary this year. We believe the spirit of multilateralism is as essential now as it was at the end of World War II, which brought nations together to form the League of Nations, now the United Nations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ghana notes with concern the impact of COVID-19 to counter terrorism measures. Resources are being reallocated from counter terrorism agencies by governments around the world, including the withdrawal (or planned withdrawal) of foreign armed forces involved in operations against ISIL and Al-Qaida and the relocation of armed forces to support domestic pandemic relief efforts. This is a worrying situation and opens up vulnerable states to further attacks by terrorists, thus creating more humanitarian crisis in the world. We, therefore, call for a global effort to put in place measures that will counter the activities of these terrorists to avert humanitarian crisis in the midst of the global pandemic.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ghana takes this opportunity to express her support to the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire to fight the virus, alleviate human suffering and break the cycle of violence in which terrorism can thrive.

I thank you.