



SIXTH COMMITTEE

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Statement by

Ms. Sarah Weiss Ma'udi  
Legal Advisor  
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

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Thank you Madam Chairperson.

As it is my Government's first time to take the floor this session, allow me to congratulate you and the incoming bureau on your election and wish you great success. It is a much-welcomed development to see a woman at the helm of the Sixth Committee, particularly as we are a body that stands for international law and the rule of law, and it is our hope that we as a body can serve as a leader and example for fostering and facilitating women's leadership throughout the UN system and beyond. I would also like to thank at this time the outgoing bureau and the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Skoknic, for their efforts in a very challenging year. It was a true honor to serve as a member of the bureau and I stand ready to help the new bureau in any way I can.

Madam Chairperson,

The Government of Israel once again wishes to reiterate our full commitment to eliminating international terrorism with all the means at our disposal, including – importantly – by legal means. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop the ongoing pandemic of global terrorism, and in many ways left fertile ground for terrorists to increase, rather than decrease, their malign activities. As an international community, we all have a responsibility to do our share to put an end to this troubling phenomenon.

In this context, we welcome the continued efforts of the UN entities – including the UNOCT and CTED - that work to curb international terrorism, and thank them for their ongoing positive partnerships and cooperation with our Government. We recognize that close international collaboration is essential in order to confront terrorism in its many forms and manifestations.

We also welcome steps taken by those Governments, who, like ours, have adopted comprehensive and robust counterterrorism and related legislation and have designated terrorist organizations on the domestic plane. Israel adopted a comprehensive anti-terrorism law in 2016 that offers a holistic approach to fighting terrorism within the law. We encourage countries that have not done so to follow these models, and stand ready, as always, to engage and share best practices on the legal and other fronts, as decisive action on the national front is a key component to a successful global counterterrorism strategy.

Madam Chairperson,

The Government of Israel welcomes the adoption of the Seventh Biannual Review of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy. This latest version of the strategy includes a number of important elements. One of these key provisions is the reiterated condemnation by all member states of the use of human shields by terrorist organizations – one of the key modes of operation of terrorist organizations in the Middle East region and beyond. The terrorists' use and abuse of innocent civilians to shield their operations and drive up the casualty count – in brazen violation of international law, and in a twisted and oftentimes successful effort garner public sympathy -- poses heart-wrenching dilemmas for law-abiding nations. It is critical that the GCTS and world community clearly and unambiguously condemn this troubling phenomenon, and give States the requisite legal and other tools to overcome this challenge.

We also welcome the GCTS' condemnation of terrorist attacks targeting religious and ethnic communities, including explicit language condemning the upswing in acts of terror motivated by

antisemitism. In this vein, we appreciate the international community's and the Secretary General's recognition of this troubling trend and their acknowledgement of the increase in violence and terror against Jews throughout the world. We commend their calls for the need to craft a comprehensive and all-embracing global counterterrorism strategy that specifically incorporates and addresses this worrisome phenomenon.

Another troublesome trend that we were glad to see the GCTS address is the growing abuse of information and communications technologies by terrorists in order to spread their ideologies, incite to violence and recruit members. This phenomenon, of course, has been magnified by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this context, we embrace the approach adopted by the GCTS, which recognizes that both governments and the private sector have a crucial role to play in curbing this ongoing threat to international peace and security.

Madam Chairperson,

On a final note, we call upon the international community – be it in the framework of the next GCTS or in a future Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism – to embrace a “zero tolerance” and “zero excuses” policy when it comes to terrorism and not allow for the selective application of legal principles in clear instances of terrorism. Acts of terror should never be misrepresented as a quote on quote "noble acts", or praised in any way. Rather, they should be condemned unambiguously, in no uncertain terms. The world community will be able to fight terrorism effectively and decisively only when it comes to recognize that terrorism is terrorism, and can never be justified or excused.

I thank you Madam Chairperson.