



# PHILIPPINES

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## **STATEMENT**

Item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism  
Sixth Committee  
76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
05 October 2021, Conference Rooms 1-3  
UN Headquarters New York

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Philippines expresses its full support for you and your Bureau. We align with the statements of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Madam Chair,

Last year, we discussed how the pandemic has aggravated the challenges in addressing international terrorism. A year later, and more than a year of living through this pandemic, we see glimmers of hope. Indeed, the Secretary General's Report (A/76/201), gives us a sense that despite the setbacks, states have taken steps forward, in line with Paragraph 10 of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

We thank the Secretary General for including in the Report the Philippines' submission on the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020. We presented elements of this new law before the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), highlighting that the law is consistent with our commitments under the relevant Security Council Resolutions and CTED's recommendations.

The law penalizes foreign terrorists who travel to a State other than their State of residence or nationality and those who facilitate travel for terrorism purposes, and mandates the automatic adoption and designation of terrorists included in the Security Council sanctions lists. The law also ensures that humanitarian activities are not unduly affected by counter-terrorism measures.

Madame Chair,

Strengthening our legal framework is just one among the many steps we have taken in the whole-of-nation approach to prevent and suppress international terrorism. We also exert efforts to counter terrorism financing, enhance law enforcement and border control, secure and protect cyberspace, with due respect to human rights.

Not too long ago, Marawi City, in southern Philippines, was under siege by terrorists, including by foreign terrorist fighters. Now new roads lead to Marawi, the city has risen from the rubble at a steady pace, and those displaced have returned to seek shelter as homes have been rebuilt. Marawi underscored that the underlying conditions that drive people to join violent extremist groups must be addressed at the grassroots. Partnership with local stakeholders must be expanded. To this end, we adopted the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, also cited in the Report, with the Department of the Interior and Local Government as the lead.

Madame Chair,

We join hands with the international community in ensuring that terrorists will find no safe haven anywhere – not even during this pandemic.

With the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and partners, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme which will enhance capabilities to detect the travel of terrorists and serious criminals by collecting and analyzing passenger data, enabling us to address shifting terrorist threats in both the air and maritime environments. We look forward to the next steps in its implementation, noting synergies with UNOCT's aviation security initiative which will be rolled out in PH soon.

Madame Chair,

We reaffirm the primacy of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and we remain committed to its four-pronged approach: particularly that measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law are the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

With the adoption by consensus of the 7<sup>th</sup> iteration of the GCTS, the community of nations once again reaffirmed the four pillars of this living document. The hard-won consensus gives us measured optimism on the prospects for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

At the UNGA, our President said, "We will deal with all criminals – including terrorists – with the full force of our laws." In the same breath, he announced that we have finalized our Joint Program on Human Rights with the United Nations, 'a model for constructive engagement between a sovereign Member State and the United Nations'. He said, "The Philippines seeks stronger partnerships to protect the rights of Filipinos and realize the full potential of our nation. But let me be clear – what we mean is partnership that respects our peoples' agency."

In this spirit, through constructive engagement, respect for sovereignty and for people's agency, we can collectively work towards a long-overdue comprehensive convention.

Thank you, Madame Chair.