

Check against delivery

**Statement on behalf of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia**

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Delegate**

**At the 76th session of the General Assembly
Sixth Committee: Agenda item 111
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism**

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Madame Chairperson,

Let me start by expressing our appreciation to the Secretary General for his report on Measures to eliminate international terrorism as contained in document A/76/201.

I would also like to add my voice in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election to facilitate the work of the Sixth committee.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

Madame Chairperson,

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attack, which ushered in the campaign against terrorism in a scale never seen before. The unforgettable attack waged against the United States brought to the forefront the perils of terrorism that some countries including mine have been experiencing for long.

Since 2001, we have adopted radical shift in the way we administer immigration, financial transaction, trade, and all other internal and inter-state interactions. We have also put in place several mechanisms, including preventive and punitive measures. From all the measures we applied, we learned the merits and shortcomings and adjusted accordingly.

Madame Chairperson,

As is repeatedly reiterated in General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions terrorism is a criminal act that cannot be justified by any cause. In the absence of a universally agreed definition, the African Convention against Terrorism that is ratified by 41 states in the region remains the only consensus document with definition of the crime.

Notwithstanding, the absence of universally accepted definition did not prevent us from adopting elaborate regimes on each specific method as well as the ancillary offenses to the crime of terrorism.

We cannot however, say the same for our achievement in having an equally and mutually-beneficial cooperation in combating domestic and regional terror groups. Although it is the primary responsibility of each state to identify and tackle terrorist advances that threatens its security, we need to have a balanced international cooperation regime in the effort to contain terrorist threats.

Currently, there is a glaring discrepancy on our commitment to recognize and extend cooperation. The double standard for international cooperation which is given a pretext explanation based on absence of a universally agreed on definition is a serious challenge. In this regard, my delegation reiterates, the need to have a margin of appreciation to the experience and determinations of countries and regions.

Madame Chairperson,

Owing to the volatile, indiscriminate, and transnational nature of terrorism, a collective response that is equally dynamic and multi-dimensional, is required to mitigate this ongoing global threat.

In this regard, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy lays out a roadmap primarily for member states to improve their counter-terrorism efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Ethiopia strongly supports and will continue to contribute toward a coordinated response against terrorism at national, regional, and international levels.

In view of this, Ethiopia has taken important legislative steps to prevent and combat terrorism by enacting and periodically reviewing domestic legislations and adopting relevant counter-terrorism conventions.

Ethiopia is currently on its second counter terrorism legislation. We have come a long way in reviewing our laws to catch up with the dynamic nature of the crime and adjust to the human rights requirements that are at stake in counter terrorism measures.

Ethiopia has also made advances in the area of financial security. Recognizing the strategic shortcomings identified by the national risk assessment in 2016, the government of Ethiopia reviewed and updated the laws against money laundering and terrorism financing. Consequently, Ethiopia's ranking has improved from low compliant to complaint with FATF recommendations.

Madame Chairperson,

We look forward to a successful dialogue and interaction in the Sixth Committee on this agenda item and you have Ethiopia's full support in discharging your responsibilities.

I thank you.