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**STATEMENT**  
**BY**  
**MR. MUHABI LUNGU**  
**CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, A.I.**  
**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**ON**  
**AGENDA ITEM 111: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE**  
**INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

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**Chairperson,**

I wish to begin by congratulating you upon your well-deserved election to the bureau and to assure you of Zambia's support throughout the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the distinguished representative of the Republic of Ghana speaking on behalf of the African Group. We also wish to join the global community in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motive, the nature, or the status of the perpetrator.

**Chairperson,**

Most of our countries are still grappling with the scourge of terrorism in its different forms and manifestations. We still have a long way to go before we could fully declare victory over the scourge. However, there is hope: While every death is one death too many, let us take special note that our efforts are not in vain. According to the 2020 Global Terrorism Index, terrorism-related deaths fell for the fifth consecutive year in 2019 to 13,826 victims. This represents a 15% drop over the previous year.

However, despite this reduction, my delegation remains concerned over the impact international terrorism has on our economies. A terrorist attack that destroys critical physical infrastructure and human capital often incapacitates other important sectors that produce essential goods and services. Moreover, local authorities are forced to divert resources to repair the affected public structures and bolster internal security. Terrorism creates widespread anxiety and fear and has a knock-on effect that is sometimes difficult to discern. A terrorist attack in one country can result in market instability in an entire region. It provokes increased xenophobic sentiments, foreign scepticism, among others, all of which are detrimental to international trade and foreign direct investment.

The cumulative cost on the global economy is staggering. It is evident that we need increased international coordination and better enforcement of our national and regional laws. This includes updating legislation and putting in place specialised divisions to counter international terrorism and their financiers.

## **Chairperson,**

Zambia is not immune to the clandestine operations of terrorist organisations. Although Zambia has been spared of direct terrorist attacks, the country is still vulnerable to attacks, and certain preventive measures have been put in place. The Zambian National Assembly passed the National Anti-Terrorism Proliferation Act No. 6 of 2018, thus repealing the less-effective Anti-Terrorism Act of 2007.

Further efforts have been made to ensure that the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), which was established as an autonomous statutory body in 2010, is adequately staffed, funded, and provided with the necessary incentives to carry out its functions objectively and independently. The FIC works closely with law enforcement and dutifully discharges its core functions, ensuring the continued prevention and detection of money laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing, and other crimes. The *Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism* mechanism, as well as the *Financial Action Task Force* process are now fully activated.

In fact, the FIC Act was further amended; through the Financial Intelligence Centre (Amendment) bill No. 41 of December 2020. This followed findings of the *2019 Zambia Mutual Evaluation Report* on its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures. It was observed, in that study, that the FIC legislation relating to, among other things, customer identification and verification, wire transfers, and administrative sanctions, needed further reinforcement. The amended Act allows the FIC to better monitor suspicious activities in personal bank accounts that are used to conceal illicit business transactions with criminal elements. The newly elected Government of President Hakainde Hichilema is currently pursuing a five-year transformative process in its national development programme, which *inter alia* aims at ensuring that the strategy on the fight against corruption, money laundering and international terrorism is well-coordinated.

We are grateful for the technical support we have continued to receive from cooperating partners, and urge that further assistance be given to ensure Zambia and other developing countries enhance and strengthen the capacity of all relevant institutions established to eliminate international terrorism. We hope that these efforts will soon be guided by a well-crafted Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Zambia stands ready to actively participate in the proposed high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organised response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

**Chairperson,**

In closing, I wish to call upon all Member States of the United Nations to be extremely cautious: During times of conflict, reactive governments and terrorised populations are far more malleable and willing to forego economic and political rights or civil liberties in exchange for peace and security. We must ensure that as we strike the necessary balance, we do not take away our fundamental rights and liberties. For if we fail on this score, who else will be the victors but the terrorists themselves?

**I thank you.**