

Statement of H.E. Minister Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, at the meeting of the 6th Committee on measures to eliminate international terrorism, 8 October 2021

Madam Chair,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you for your well-deserved election.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statements delivered by Iran on behalf of NAM and by Saudi Arabia on behalf of the OIC.

Madam Chair,

History teaches us that powers, notably colonial powers, often invoke terrorism to justify their oppression of peoples pursuing their legitimate right to national liberation and self-determination, a right enshrined in natural law, international law and the UN Charter.

Many representatives here can tell you about how their historical leaders were branded as terrorists by the oppressors trying to delegitimize their struggle. In this debate, we stand resolutely on the side of Mandela, not on the side of the Apartheid regime which labelled him a terrorist.

History also teaches us that countries may invoke the fight against terrorism to bend or break the fundamental rules that lie at the heart of the international law based order.

We will never be complicit in such endeavors as they undermine the rule of international law and the fight against terrorism.

Madam Chair,

The State of Palestine unequivocally condemns and rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed, including in situations in which States are directly or indirectly involved. In this context, we have concluded memorandums of understanding with over 80 states around the world and fully cooperate with the United Nations in the fight against terrorism.

We welcome the holding of the 7th Review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and the adoption of resolution 75/291. We stress the importance of concluding a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism.

We are proud to be part of the Group of friends of victims of terrorism who deserve our solidarity and support and look forward to the convening of the first ever Global Congress of Victims of terrorism.

Madam Chair,

We all pledged not to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. We regret that for political and electoral purposes, such association continues being used and abused, generating hate, deepening discrimination and resentment, and undermining the fight against terrorism.

There are two forms of unacceptable discrimination, the one which makes one category of people suspicious simply because of their faith or the colour of their skin, and the one which exonerates others based on their faith and the colour of their skin. Terrorism is terrorism, regardless of the faith, nationality, culture or colour of the victim and of the perpetrator.

In conclusion Madam Chair, we believe that upholding international law and human rights, respecting national, collective and individual rights, fighting racism and discrimination, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development are indispensable to foster hope rather than fuel hatred. It is only those who share the fundamental belief that we are all entitled to equal measures of freedom, dignity and security that can truly call themselves partners, including in the fight against terrorism.

Thank you Madam Chair.