



SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

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Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

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Thank you Mr. Chair, and allow me to congratulate you on your appointment for this position, and wish you every success in leading the Sixth Committee forward this session.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Israel once again wishes to reiterate our full commitment to eliminating international terrorism. This year has seen an increasing number of terrorist activities in all regions of the world, as terror organizations continue to thrive and plan for the destabilization of the rules-based international order. Unfortunately, this trend has not spared Israel. As an international community, we all have a responsibility to cooperate and ensure that we take all steps necessary to put an end to terrorism.

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. Specifically, we would like to commend the work done by the UNOCT to host the first congress for the victims of terrorism last month. Israeli trauma and psychology experts shared their experience on treatment of victims of terrorism, including methods of treatment for trauma and support to the community. Israel is proud to be a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and we would like to

take this opportunity to thank the chairs of the group for their positive leadership in this regard. We will continue to work closely with UN entities and Member States to foster positive cooperation in the effort to eliminate international terrorism. We recognize that close international collaboration is essential to successfully confront terrorism in its many forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Israel looks forward to participating in the Eighth Biannual Review of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy, and to taking an active and positive role in this negotiation. The Government of Israel urges states to embrace a “zero tolerance” and “zero excuses” policy when it comes to terrorism and to not allow for the selective application of legal principles in clear instances of terrorism. The GCTS, too, should adopt the same “zero excuses” approach. Acts of terror should never be misrepresented as quote "noble acts" unquote, or praised in any way. Rather, they must be condemned unambiguously, in no uncertain terms.

Perhaps most notably this year, was the blatant disregard by UN reports of the abuse of humanitarian assistance organizations by terrorist groups. One noteworthy example is the January 2022 CTED report titled “The interrelationship between counter-terrorism frameworks and international humanitarian law”. This is a topic that bears great importance for Israel, and covers one of the most troubling practices

today in conflict zones and areas under the territorial control of terrorist groups. However, we regretfully noticed a glaring omission in the report of the abuse of humanitarian assistance organizations by terrorist groups. This is particularly troubling, since this heinous practice by terrorist groups intentionally puts both civilians and humanitarian aid workers in jeopardy - two groups of protected persons under the rules of IHL. Yet we see no mention of it in the report.

The global community will be able to fight terrorism effectively and decisively only when it also recognizes the effects terrorism has on the civilian population - which is often used as shields - and on the work of humanitarian aid - which is often abused due to its special protection under international law. We should all act diligently to prevent the attempts of terror organizations to mask their organs as humanitarian assistance organizations. Such deceitful practices allow for terror organizations to raise funds for their activity while disguising the true purpose of such funds, and the activities these funds provide for. This practice is a willful deceit of good and honest donors and humanitarian aid workers, while maliciously exploiting the truly important work of civil society organizations, who need all the assistance they can get. This practice should be unequivocally reflected and condemned in the GCTS, and any other UN resolutions, in line with existing international norms as reflected in UN Security Council Resolution 2462 (2019) and the FATF international standards to prevent and confront money laundering and terror financing, and

especially Recommendation 8 - which sets forth the requirements for ensuring that civil society organizations are not abused by terrorist groups.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome steps taken by those Governments who 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 framework of the law. We encourage countries that have not done so to follow these models, and we stand ready, as always, to engage and share best practices, on legal and other fronts, as decisive action on the national level is a key component to a successful global counterterrorism strategy.

Israel made substantive contributions to the fight against terrorism this year. From incorporating our experts in several UN Counterterrorism initiatives, to participating in international conferences, and our work in capacity building – Israel continues to be a leading actor in this field. We are, as always, willing to share our expertise and best practices dealing with terrorism in many different areas, including in - new technologies, counter-terrorism prosecution, financing of terrorism and the use of social media by terrorist groups - both with the UN and state partners.

Mr. Chair,

On a final note, we would like to express our support for the Sixth Committee which is tasked to focus on legal issues. We call on states to redouble their efforts both domestically and internationally to ensure that we develop and foster the best and most effective legal tools and remedies that will make a meaningful contribution to fight terrorism within the law. We hope the international community will finally come to realize that terrorism is terrorism, and we can never justify or excuse it, nor should we ever underestimate its catastrophic ramifications.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.