



Statement by Ambassador Xolisa Mabhongo, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the UNGA77 Sixth Committee, 3 October 2022

“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”

Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your deserved election. Allow me to assure you of my delegation’s cooperation and support throughout the work of the Committee. South Africa associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Africa Group.

We also express gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

Terrorism continues to be a problem and a serious threat to international peace and security, human rights, and to the humanitarian efforts of international community aimed at helping the most vulnerable. The upsurge in acts of terrorism globally shows how terrorism can mutate in ways that threaten the enjoyment of peace and security globally. South Africa deplors all acts of terrorism, and we believe that none can be justified. We therefore strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods, and practices associated with it.

Chairperson,

The efforts put in by different states at national, regional, and international levels to combat terrorism should be applauded. My delegation remains firm in our belief that no country and region can address this challenging and complex threat on its own and that terrorism will not and cannot be defeated only by military means. The UN’s Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains the most credible and relevant international counter-terrorism mechanism, which continues to enjoy the political support of all Member States. Its strength lies in the fact that it is the product of the collective efforts of the Member States of the United Nations to counter this scourge in a holistic manner.

Whilst much is being done to counter terrorism at the international, regional, sub-regional, bilateral and national levels, including in terms of law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and extradition, it has become critically important and urgent to conclude a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism. We therefore fully support the establishment of a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism during this session.

Chairperson,

At the national level, in South Africa there has been a number of developments relating to terrorism since the adoption of the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, 2004, including new international instruments, and UNSC resolutions, which requires an updating of the national legislation. The Constitutional Court judgment in the matter of *S v Okah* (CCT 315/16; CCT 193/17) [2018] ZACC 3, also had the result that some terminology in the Act needed to be simplified.

The United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate, which oversees the implementation of binding UNSC Resolutions paid compliance visits to South Africa in 2007 and 2018 and made recommendations on strengthening the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, 2004, which were considered. The Financial Action Task Force, of which South Africa is a member, after a compliance visit on the financing of terrorism made recommendations on strengthening measures in the Act, aimed at combating the financing of terrorism.

South Africa is glad to announce that the process of amending its national legislation to give effect to these crucial developments relating to terrorism on the international plane and experience within its own domestic context has commenced. Public comments on the Bill have been received including from some international organisations with a humanitarian mandate. Therefore, South Africa continuously adapts to a dynamic area and will report on these developments soon.

I thank you for your attention.