



**77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Sixth Committee**

**Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism**

**Statement by the Sri Lanka Delegation**

**Monday, 03 October 2022**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me extend my delegation's warmest congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. Allow me to assure you of my delegation's fullest support and cooperation during the proceedings of this committee.

Sri Lanka also aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is one of the gravest threats to global peace and security. All acts of terrorism are clear violations of international laws, including human rights law, humanitarian law, and refugee law.

We are deeply concerned about the spread of terrorist organizations and the significant rise in terrorist attacks worldwide, which directly hinder the global collective effort to achieve sustainable development and threaten efforts to maintain global peace and security.

As a country that has experienced terrorism for nearly thirty years, Sri Lanka condemns terrorism in all its forms and expressions, regardless of the motivation, and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

Mr. Chairman,

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that terrorist groups are versatile, opportunistic, sophisticated and able to adapt to changing environments. In this context, technology, particularly information and communications technologies, has emerged as a favored tool for terrorists to engage in terrorist activities such as recruitment, financing, propaganda, training, and information gathering and dissemination.

Furthermore, the rising threat posed by terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism, or intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, is also of particular concern.

It therefore requires coordinated global measures, and the root causes of terrorism must be addressed by promoting religious dialogue and intercultural tolerance. We must not forget and we are grateful that the UN and its specialist agencies are at the forefront in the fight against terrorism. Sri Lanka stresses the importance of adhering strictly to the United Nations Charter and other international laws when combating terrorism whilst being sensitive to the adherence to the preservation of human rights and of international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairman,

Sri Lanka commends the efforts of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and other UN entities engaged in counter-terrorism initiatives, and reaffirms its support for the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We will continue to support the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council in coordinating counterterrorism operations.

At the national level, the Government of Sri Lanka has established the necessary legal framework to enable law enforcement and the legal system to address acts of terrorism while strengthening international cooperation in the combat against the global phenomenon of terrorism. The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) (1979) and the Public Security Ordinance (1947) in particular provide the framework for national counterterrorism efforts. These laws are currently under consideration so as to ensure that they are consonant with global best practices and international law. Sri Lanka has also been at the forefront of emphasizing the need to address the risks associated with terrorist financing. In this regard, Sri Lanka has implemented a number of legislative measures, including establishing the Financial Intelligence Unit and enacting the Prevention of Money Laundering Act No. 5.

Mr. Chairman

Given the challenges we face today, Sri Lanka wishes to stress the importance of concluding the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and urges Member States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. There has never been a more crucial time to accomplish this than now.

Sri Lanka welcomes the convening of the first United Nations Global Congress dedicated to advancing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, which was held on 8 and 9th September at UN headquarters.

To conclude, as a nation that has dealt with terrorism for nearly three decades and as the only nation to have eradicated terrorism, we reiterate the need to embark on concrete collective measures to counter terrorism and would be ready to impart our experience and knowledge in crafting appropriate responses and provide close corporation in our common endeavor to the ensuring the fundamental right to the protection against terrorism.

I thank you!