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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

ANDUALEM YALELET, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

AT

THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 112
“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”

04 OCTOBER 2022

NEW YORK,

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me begin by congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election to guide the work of the Sixth Committee. I assure you the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

My delegation also thanks the Secretary-General for his report on Measures to eliminate international terrorism contained in document A/77/185.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia is one of those countries affected by terrorism and terrorist acts from which lives were lost and properties destroyed. This criminal conduct caused irreversible damage and threatened the country's peace and development.

Hence, we firmly believe that governments should endeavor to guarantee the right of the people to live in peace and stability. To this end, the Government of Ethiopia has been exerting the necessary effort to prevent and combat terrorism through enacting and effectively implementing domestic laws, ratifying international treaties, and implementing resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

Mr. Chairperson,

As is repeatedly reiterated in General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions, terrorism is a criminal act that cannot be justified by any cause. In the absence of a universally agreed definition, the African Convention against Terrorism that is ratified by 41 States in the region and remains the only consensus document with definition of the crime. Notwithstanding, the absence of universally accepted definition did not prevent us from adopting elaborate regimes on each specific method as well as the ancillary offenses to the crime of terrorism. We cannot, however, say the same for our achievement in having an equally and mutually beneficial co-operation in combating domestic and regional terror groups. Although it is the primary responsibility of each State to identify and tackle terrorist advances that threatens its security, we need to have a balanced international cooperation regime in the effort to contain terrorist threats.

Currently, there is a glaring discrepancy on our commitment to recognize and extend cooperation. The double standard for international cooperation which is given a pretext explanation based on absence of a universally agreed on definition is a serious challenge. In this regard, my delegation reiterates, the need to have a margin of appreciation to the experience and determinations of countries and regions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Owing to the volatile, indiscriminate, and transnational nature of terrorism, a collective response that is equally dynamic and multi-dimensional is required to mitigate this ongoing global threat.

In this regard, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy lays out a roadmap primarily for Member States to improve their counter-terrorism efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Ethiopia is playing an instrumental role in the effort to combat terrorism in the East African Region. The country is playing a crucial role in the African Union Mission in Somalia /AMISOM/ and the IGAD peace architecture with the aim of obliterating *Al-shabab* that curtails the peace and security of not only Somalians but also the people of the neighboring countries. In this regard, Ethiopia strongly supports and will continue to contribute toward a coordinated response against terrorism at national, regional, and international levels.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia is also party to 9 of the 19 universal international counter-terrorism and regional counterterrorism instruments in the context of the African Union, IGAD. We have also concluded bilateral agreements on extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters. Furthermore, Ethiopia has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and its three other protocols, the African Convention to Combat Terrorism, the IGAD conventions on extradition and mutual legal assistance. Similarly, we have adopted our own legal system to conform to applicable international instruments, including in relation to foreign terrorist fighters, as well as financing of terrorism and money-laundering. In view of this, Ethiopia has taken

important legislative steps to prevent and combat terrorism by enacting and periodically reviewing domestic legislations and adopting relevant counter-terrorism conventions.

We have come a long way in reviewing our laws to catch up with the dynamic nature of the crime and adjust to the human rights requirements that are at stake in counter terrorism measures. Accordingly, in line with the principle of the rule of law enshrined under the Constitution of the country and other treaties Ethiopia have adopted, the Government has enacted the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation 652/2009. Moreover, training to the law enforcement and other concerned officials on the laws that aim to combat terrorism have been given. After considering the efficacy in implementation of the Proclamation and with the aim to address concerns on the respect for human rights, the Government had made a revision on the proclamation and currently enacted its second counter terrorism legislation, Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism Crime Proclamation No. 1176/2020. The review is believed to enhance the counter terrorism efforts of the country by striking the accurate balance with the respect for human rights.

Ethiopia has also made advances in the area of financial security. Recognizing the strategic shortcomings identified by the national risk assessment in 2016, the Government of Ethiopia reviewed and updated the laws against money laundering and terrorism financing.

Mr. Chairperson,

Concerning international and regional cooperation, Ethiopia works closely with Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan, as well as with the African Union, IGAD and other organizations. It has signed Memorandum of Understandings with

many of our neighbouring States and has also entered into police-to-police cooperation agreements under the Memorandum of Understandings, including in areas related to counter terrorism and arms smuggling.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, while I reiterate the continued commitment of my Government to combat and eliminate terrorism, we look forward to constructively engage in the discussion of this agenda item.

I thank you.