



Statement

by

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to the United Nations

at the **sixth committee**

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Mr. Chair,

Allow me to start by congratulating you on your election as Chair of this Committee. I extend my congratulations to other elected members of the Bureau and I wish to assure you of my delegation's support.

I also wish to thank the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its valued contribution to the Committee's work.

Lebanon associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and on behalf the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

I come from a country that has long suffered from terrorist attacks. Most of us in Lebanon know a person who has been affected by a terrorist act, be it someone who has lost his life, who has been injured, or someone who has suffered the loss of a relative.

We know the pain and trauma that ensues, and the impact it has on the social fabric of a society.

So I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm Lebanon's firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to pay tribute to all victims of heinous terrorist acts.

Almost a month ago, Mr. Chair, the first UN Global Congress on victims of terrorism was held here at the UN. And as Amina Mohammed rightly put it "*It is an essential part of our efforts to prevent and end terrorism everywhere. Amplifying the voices and views of victims and survivors is the ultimate demonstration that the terrorists will never prevail.*"

This first Congress brought together survivors, governments' representatives, members of civil society, academia and private sector. It brought into focus the importance of a whole of society approach in devising relevant policies and strategies.

We welcome the successful holding of this Congress, extend our gratitude to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, as well as Spain and Iraq as co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism. In this regard, we thank Spain for offering to host the second UN Global Congress.

Mr. Chair,

With global challenges on the rise, with crises aggravating by the day, the spread of terrorism and violent extremism remains a constant and persistent threat to all.

The response can only be enhanced multilateralism, stronger international cooperation and increased solidarity.

The United Nations is instrumental in our multilateral efforts towards preventing and countering international terrorism.

Addressing root causes which can lead to violent extremism, to terrorist radicalization is also as relevant as ever. They range from resolving protracted conflicts, strengthening food security, to promoting good governance, the rule of law, social-economic growth, just to name a few. In this context, upholding human rights is as equally important.

Lebanon recalls the relevance of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the importance of implementing its four pillars in a balanced manner.

Lebanon is committed in its fight against terrorism despite the enormous humanitarian, economic and social challenges facing the country.

The Lebanese Government has developed comprehensive plans, such as the National Action Plan for preventing violent extremism for 2021-2023. It seeks to give specific attention to youth in preventing violent extremism. It seeks to enhance women's role, as necessary actors for maintaining social peace. The Plan also contains programmes for prisoners and vulnerable communities. Adequate resources are needed to move towards implementation of these robust plans.

Furthermore, the support from the UN and the international community is vital to help us implement our international obligations. Lebanon is grateful to its International partners for the support provided to the Lebanese Army, and for the coordination projects to help us strengthen our national capacities to face the terrorist threat. It is indispensable to ensuring stability in the country.

Mr. Chair,

Justice is fundamental in combatting terrorism, putting an end to impunity and advancing accountability for the victims and for the society as a whole.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon has recently completed its judicial proceedings in the main case and has now entered the residual phase until its closure by the end of 2023. The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was established to prosecute those responsible of the terrorist acts in Beirut of 14 February 2005, which claimed the life of 22 people, including former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and injured 226 persons. Once again, I take this opportunity to thank UN and all those who have supported the Tribunal's work.