



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

BY

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AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

**ON AGENDA ITEM 111: "MEASURES TO ELIMINATE  
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"**

**77<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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*Check against delivery*

**Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone congratulates you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee for this session. We equally congratulate you and your Bureau for the excellent job you are doing. We have no doubt that your extensive diplomatic experience will lead to a successful and profitable conclusion of our work during this session. I assure you of my delegation's fullest cooperation.
2. My delegation respectively associates this statement with the statements delivered earlier by the distinguished representatives of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
3. We also thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document **A/77/185**. We have duly taken note of the content thereof.
4. We continue to emphasize our unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomsoever committed.

**Mr. Chair,**

5. In the year under review, Sierra Leone has faced unprecedented acts of domestic terrorism, particularly on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2022, with a critical transnational component in the incitement of acts of domestic terrorism through the use, or rather, the misuse of the internet, including social media platforms.
6. Sierra Leone recalls paragraph 2 of GA resolution 50/53 on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", which is re-echoed in paragraph 3 of the "Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism", contained in the annex to resolution 49/60 which reiterates that "*all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them*".

7. In this regard, there was NO justification, and there CANNOT be any justification for the acts of terrorism and shocking violence that emanated from the unlawful demonstration that took place in Sierra Leone on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. We therefore, call for continued international cooperation to ensure accountability for the loss of the lives of several civilians and officers of the Sierra Leone Police, as well as the destruction of public and private properties. There is absolute need for international cooperation to address the problem of misuse of the internet and social media to incite acts of terrorism and dissemination of extremism and hate speech.

**Mr. Chair,**

8. Sierra Leone expresses appreciation for the progress achieved during the 7<sup>th</sup> Review of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which tackled, amongst others, issues relating to the exacerbation of extremist narratives and hate speech, new and emerging threats such as the misuse of technology for terrorist purposes, the misuse of internet, including social media platforms for recruitment, as well as the importance of upholding Human Rights in the fight against terrorism.

9. As Sierra Leone looks forward to the 8<sup>th</sup> Review of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy to be held in 2023, we agree with the expressed view of the African Group that we must build on the progress achieved during the 7<sup>th</sup> Review.

10. In the bid to address critical aspects in the fight against terrorism, we have enacted the Cybersecurity and Crime Act 2021, which criminalizes both cyber terrorisms, i.e., accessing or cause to access a computer or computer system or network for purposes of terrorist acts, and racist and xenophobic offences. The use of "racist or xenophobic material" meaning, "any written or printed material, any image or any other representation of ideas or theories, which advocate, promote or incite hatred, discrimination or violence against any individual or group of individuals, based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, as well as religion if used as a pretext for any of these factors" are also criminal offences under the Cybersecurity and Crime Act 2021.

11. In addition to the recognition and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individuals as enshrined in Chapter III of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Act 2021 provides specific safeguards and conditions related to procedural powers, such as judicial oversight and recognition of legal

privileges and gives effect to the principles of necessity and proportionality.

12. We are implementing the 2005 anti-money laundering law as amended in 2012, which includes the prohibition and punishment for the financing of terrorism. We will continue to implement biometric identification and verification processes at all points of entry into Sierra Leone to identify red-listed individuals on the global terrorists' list.

**Mr. Chair,**

13. Of paramount importance on our agenda this for session are topics for which Member States have expressed the urgent need for this Committee to make progress on. In our view, it is absolutely important to make progress on operative paragraph 25 of resolution **A/76/121**, in which the Assembly decided "*to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism [CCIT] as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations*". Now is the time for the outstanding issues relating to the draft CCIT to be resolved or concrete steps taken in that regard.
14. Sierra Leone's positions on the two issues have been re-stated in this room. We reiterate our support for the urgent finalization of the CCIT; and the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations.
15. It is our view that reiteration of positions will not resolve the outstanding issues and the current impasse that exists. Member States **MUST** look at their respective and common interests in a holistic manner in order to achieve progress.
16. It is also our view that one such common interest is ensuring the General Assembly successfully discharges its mandate under the United Nations Charter to codify and progressively develop international law.
17. 22 years have elapsed since the commencement of negotiations on the draft CCIT in 2000. Of course, substantial negotiations have taken place and the convention is almost complete. Accordingly, the

outstanding issues must not continue to test our collective interests and will.

18. In the capacity of Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on the Outstanding Issues, we call for renewed commitment, innovative thinking, to move forward and for the Working Group to deliver on our collective mandate to further develop the legal framework concerning international terrorism by concluding the CCIT.
19. This may include the Sixth Committee agreeing to work on the procedural aspects and modalities for the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations on terrorism. It may also include identifying those issues that can be resolved at the political level, whilst at the sometime identifying ways in which the effectiveness of the current framework is not undermined but rather safeguarded.

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

20. It is the strongest conviction of the delegation of Sierra Leone that the Sixth Committee should be prepared to work on the basis in which the current positions are respected, but the procedural aspects to make progress are worked on to achieve our common interests.
21. In conclusion, **Mr. Chair**, as we continue to closely examine legal, policy, and institutional frameworks at all levels to address the threat of terrorism, we call for the holistic tackling of extremist violence, transnational crime in an organised and comprehensive manner. Indeed, we need to keep up the momentum in the fight against terrorism, but counter-terrorism responses must always be gender sensitive and must comply with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.
22. **I thank you.**