

Statement by Türkiye at the Sixth Committee for the 77th Session of the General Assembly under agenda item 112: “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism” (4 October 2022)

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Distinguished Chair,

Let me join other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election. You all have the Turkish Mission’s trust and I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Terrorism is a grave violation of human rights. It also negatively impacts fulfilment of fundamental rights and freedoms.

It is one of the biggest threats to peace, security and development of our societies.

All acts of terrorism are unjustified regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed.

Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Distinguished Chair,

Türkiye has been at the forefront of countering terrorist organizations with a broad spectrum of ideologies, be it DAESH, Al-Qaida, PKK/PYD/YPG or FETÖ for years. These groups and others have been operating across national borders, running training camps, acquiring financial resources, operating media outlets to disseminate their propaganda and glorify their vicious acts abroad.

Regretfully, some perpetrators of terrorist attacks, their accomplices and financiers have been able to escape justice and travel freely.

We cannot succeed in our counter-terrorism efforts in the absence of international cooperation.

There should be increased cooperation between states on the basis of the “extradite or prosecute” principle, in order to deny safe haven to terrorists.

No discrimination between terrorist organizations should be made. Subcontracting a terrorist organization to fight another is a serious mistake. It is counterproductive. It will have a boomerang effect.

Importance and value of bilateral and regional and cross-regional international cooperation mechanisms cannot be over-estimated. Yet, the UN is the main platform for promoting a collective and coherent response against terrorism.

Türkiye is committed to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with its four pillars.

Distinguished Chair,

The international community should maintain the commitment to combat Daesh and Al-Qaida in Middle East while refraining from cooperating with other terrorist organizations.

The territorial expansion of terrorist groups in several regions in Africa is a particular cause for concern.

And, we need to continue our efforts to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for terrorists.

As an active member of the Global Coalition against DAESH and the co-chair of the Working Group on FTFs, Türkiye is the only country which put boots on the ground and eliminated more than 4,500 DAESH members in Syria.

Türkiye has deported 9.033 foreign nationals suspected of FTF related activity, has included on its no-entry list more than 109 thousand foreign nationals who have connections with terrorism; has screened over 41 thousand passengers, interviewed almost 25.000 people at Risk Analysis Units operating in different provinces, major airports, bus and train stations and denied entry to more than 11 thousand individuals.

The ongoing threat of FTFs should not be overlooked.

FTFs and related persons should be repatriated by the source countries to be prosecuted, rehabilitated, reintegrated in the best possible manner.

Temporary and legally unsound fixes on preventing FTF returns will not resolve this daunting problem.

The responsibility of so-called detention of FTFs should not be left to other terrorist groups. Member states should avoid actions that would, even though implicitly and inadvertently, provide legitimacy the other terrorist organizations on the ground.

Distinguished Chair,

Countering financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering efforts are also at the center of our approach to effectively address terrorism in all its aspects.

We have efficient cooperation with the FATF.

Our authorities are taking necessary steps with regards to the Action Plan presented by FATF. Turkish institutions are committed to achieving a higher level of compliance with FATF standards.

We take swift actions in implementing the sanction decisions of the Security Council. Last year, the assets of 1173 person and entities related to terrorist organizations were frozen.

Also, the nexus between organized crime and terrorism cannot and should not be disregarded.

The manufacturing and smuggling of narcotics and firearms, as well as human and migrant trafficking, among other illegal activities, constitute significant sources of revenue for terrorist groups.

They finance their activities mostly through organized crime.

In this respect, we value the work of the UNODC. We attach importance that the UNODC should continue to play its independent and impartial role.

Chair,

Upholding human rights while countering terrorism and ensuring all measures being taken consistent with our relevant international obligations is a must for defeating terrorism.

Supporting and protecting the rights of victims of terrorism should be a crucial aspect of countering terrorism. We commend the UNOCT for organizing the first Global Congress of the Victims of Terrorism.

My delegation looks forward to carry on its cooperation with the other delegations throughout the 8th review of the GCTS.

We also hope that progress will be achieved on the negotiations aimed at concluding the Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism.

Thank you.