



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT
BY
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OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
DURING THE DEBATE ON THE AGENDA ITEM
“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE TERRORISM”
6th COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. Allow me to warmly congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the Sixth Committee. You can count on the African Group's strong cooperation and support throughout the work of the Sixth Committee.

The African Group would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" contained in document A/78/221.

Mr. President,

There is no justification for terrorism and the African Group strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomever they are committed, including State terrorism. We reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

For the African Group, any act of terrorism is a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law. The African Group recognizes states non-derogable obligation as it relates to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

The African Group welcomes the 8th Review of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy and calls for more openness and negotiation to reach consensus on essential points in the 9th Review that will be held in 2026 which will coincide with the 20th Anniversary of the launching of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. It will be important to build on the progress achieved during the 8th GCTS review, which tackled, amongst others, issues relating to the return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and 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.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is the reference document for the actions to be taken by the United Nations and as such requires updating to consider the concerns and challenges faced by Member States Following the latest 8th GCTS Review, we deplore the fact consensus could not be reached to incorporate the

proposals put forward to condemn the actions of racist and right-wing extremist groups including the desecration of places of worship and the sacred texts of Holy books as well as to include a reference to the International Day against Islamophobia even though this was the subject of a recent consensus resolution by the UN General Assembly.

The African Group welcomes the engagement of the Secretary-General for a successful review of the UN Counter Terrorism Architecture and reiterates its support to the UN Office for Counter Terrorism under the Direction of USG Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov and looks forward to continuing cooperation with the Office. The African Group looks forward to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and strongly urges the United Nations and the donor countries to provide the necessary assistance and capacity building to Member States in implementing their obligations.

Mr. President,

The African Group takes note of the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee in drafting the comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We reiterate the importance of the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on Combating International Terrorism (CCIT) and the continued effort to that end. We welcome the resumed session of the informal consultations to discuss the outstanding issues on the draft CCIT, and we call on all Member States to cooperate in resolving the pending issues.

The African Group stands ready to work actively with other delegations to achieve consensus on the draft comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. In view of this, the African Group supports the proposal to convene a High-Level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we believe that the proposal should be given serious consideration.

Mr. President,

African Group has long recognized the need to take concrete measures to counter the phenomenon of terrorism and has continued to remain committed to the process which led to the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in 1999 and entered into force in 2002. The continued effort and commitment of the African Continent has redoubled by establishing agencies like the African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers. The African Union remains committed to guide, promote, raise awareness, protect and to

build the capacity of relevant stakeholders by providing operational and technical advice and support, as well as training to address terrorism related issues. Africa is committed to develop a comprehensive Continental Strategic Plan of Action on countering terrorism in Africa, premised on existing national and regional strategies, to enhance coordination and coherence, to consolidate coordination and enhance actions.

Mr. President,

While expressing concern over the increased incidences of kidnapping and hostage-taking for ransom in the region, the African Group considers the financing of terrorism as a matter of grave concern not only for the continent but also for the international community because is equally concerned that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups is one of the main sources of financing terrorist activities. In this regard, the African Group calls on Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist groups.

The African Group urges Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent refugee status from being abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts and to ensure, before granting asylum, that the asylum_seeker has not planned, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts. The African Group also calls on Member States to collaborate in the pursuit to develop—and implementing effective counter-narrative strategies, and the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives.

Apart from implementing concrete measures, more attention in the fight against terrorism needs to be further strengthened through inter-state cooperation. States should expand the range of assistance available in the apprehension of terrorists and in the investigation and prevention of terrorist acts. It is in this context that the creation and operationalization in Djibouti of the center of excellence (IGAD) for the prevention and fight against violent extremism contributing to African initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of African countries to adopt coordinated approaches to counter terrorism. The African Group welcomes the initiatives and encourage cooperation between the UN and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism. We appreciate the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCTI) elaborated by the African Center for study and Research on Terrorism and the United States' Africa Center for Strategic Studies. We also welcome the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on combating terrorism in West and Central Africa.

Mr. President

The African group welcomes the establishment in 2020 in Rabat, Morocco, of the UNOCT Program Office for Counter Terrorism and Training in Africa, which provides an important contribution in counter terrorism through capacity building support to Member States in Africa. The Rabat office serves as a training hub to build counter-terrorism capacities and cooperation in the continent, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel. This training hub develops and delivers specialized counterterrorism and law enforcement training programmes to requesting Member States in Africa.

We also welcome the establishment of the regional programme Office of Counter terrorism in Nairobi, Kenya, to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism in East Africa. The African Group also welcomes the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) to establish the Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre in Tanzania. It is expected that upon its establishment, it will seek to collaborate with the Rabat Programme Office to enhance its capacities *inter alia*.

The devastating socio-economic impacts of the pandemic felt across the globe through the loss of livelihoods and industries, and a commensurate economic downturn, has no doubt exacerbated the conditions that are known to breed terrorism. This is a worrying set of circumstances in Africa, where the evolution of terrorism is alarming, and where we have witnessed an increase in terror attacks and the proliferation of terror groups, including the mushrooming of Da'esh affiliate groups throughout the continent.

Mr. President,

It is of critical importance that the UN and its Member States work with the African region to prevent the threat of terrorism from derailing the hard-won gains that Africa has made in unifying, developing, and working towards a more prosperous, peaceful future.

In this common endeavor to fight terrorism, the African Group we continue to be motivated by the memories of the victims of terrorism and the suffering of the survivors of terrorist acts. In this context, we welcome the convening of the first United Nations Global Congress on the Victims of Terrorism, held in New York, on 8 and 9 September 2022. We look forward to the convening of the Abuja Summit to be held in March 2024.

Mr. President, in closing let me reiterate the unhindered commitment of the African Group to eradicate the scourge of terrorism, both in Africa and elsewhere.

I thank you for your attention.