

STATEMENT

BY

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AT

**THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 109**

“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”

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Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on Measures to eliminate international terrorism contained in document A/78/221.

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia is among the countries that have been impacted by terrorism and acts of terrorism, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of properties. This unlawful behavior has caused significant and permanent harm while also posing a threat to the peace and progress of the country. Terrorism is an indiscriminate criminal conduct that continues to cause irreversible damage on lives and livelihoods. Terrorist acts also endanger peace and development at the national and international level.

Therefore, we strongly believe that it is the responsibility of governments to ensure that their citizens can live in a state of peace and stability. In order to achieve this goal, the Ethiopian government has been making persistent efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. These efforts include the enacting and enforcement of domestic laws, the ratification of international treaties, and the implementation of resolutions of the Security Council.

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.

Ethiopia is actively involved in combating terrorism in Africa. We play a significant role in combatting Alshahab and other global terrorist cells in Somalia.

Ethiopia is also part of the peace and security architecture of and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Ethiopia is committed to supporting coordinated efforts against terrorism at national, regional, and international levels.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia is also party to nine international counter-terrorism and regional counter terrorism instruments adopted in the context of the United Nations and the African Union. We have also concluded bilateral agreements on extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters with many countries. We also have intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms that target the crime of terrorism.

Similarly, we have adapted 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.

Ethiopia has made significant progress in updating its laws to adapt to the ever-changing nature of terrorism and to ensure compliance with human rights standards in countering terrorism. In 2020, a proclamation to provide for the prevention and suppression of Terrorism Crimes (Proclamation no. 1176/2020) is enacted replacing the previous Anti-Terrorism Proclamation. The new proclamation adopted new mechanisms to protect rights and freedoms of individuals and enhance accountability of law enforcement bodies.

Maximum care has been made to make sure the new law is compatible with international human rights conventions. Ethiopia has also enacted laws and augmented its institutional mechanism on the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

Mr. Chairperson,

Concerning international and regional cooperation, Ethiopia works closely with its neighbours to prevent and combat terrorism in all its manifestations. We have signed police-to-police cooperation agreements, including in areas related to counter terrorism and arms smuggling. With Ethiopia's current chairmanship of the Organisation of Police Commissioners of East Africa, we brought focus to legal cooperation against the crime of terrorism.

Considering the transnational nature of the crimes, the competent authorities in Ethiopia provide the widest possible range of cooperation to the competent authorities of other states. This includes legal assistance in connection with extradition and criminal investigations and proceedings related to money laundering and financing of terrorism.

As has been reflected widely in the Counterterrorism conference held last June, terrorism has become an intensified security challenge for Africa. As delegations would note, the African Union is the only regional organization with a binding legal framework against terrorism. We also have regional sub regional mechanisms to meet the objectives of the convention. In this light Ethiopia looks forward to the Africa Counter terrorism summit that will be held in Abuja in April 2024. The Summit will be an opportunity to devise legislative and judicial measures that need to be renewed to meet the challenge of terrorism.

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.