

(Check against delivery)



**Statement on Item 109 – Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism  
Sixth Committee, 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA  
New York, 3 October 2023**

Mr. Chair,

Let me start congratulating you and the Bureau members on your election and assure you of my Delegation's full support while guiding work of the Committee.

Georgia aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is evident that no nation remains impervious to the substantial menace that poses a threat to international peace and security. Unfortunately, the international community has to deal with the looming threats of armed conflicts and their devastating implications in different parts of the world.

Over nineteen months, Russia's unjustified, unprovoked and premeditated full-scale military aggression against Ukraine, in blatant violation of international law, continues to cause immense suffering to Ukrainian people, displacement and humanitarian crisis. Georgia reiterates its strong condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Dear Colleagues,

Being conscious of the significance of effective instruments for countering perpetually evolving international terrorist threats, the Government of Georgia remains committed to the joint efforts towards enhancing the response mechanisms to counteract them effectively.

In this regard, let me briefly review some recent developments. Over time, Georgia has substantially bolstered its legislative arsenal in the realm of counter-terrorism. The chapter on

Terrorism within the Criminal Code of Georgia has undergone substantial revisions, aligning it more closely with international norms by broadening the scope of criminalization pertaining to activities associated with terrorism.

The Government of Georgia is actively working to detect constantly changing threats of international terrorism and to improve ways of responding to them. Last year the Government of Georgia approved the National Counterterrorism Strategy and its Action Plan for 2022-2026. The Strategy defines the full range of terrorist threats that Georgia has to respond to and aims at establishing the vision of the state in terms of prevention and the fight against terrorism and extremism. The document is based upon the whole-of-society approach and various stakeholders including central and local authorities, public-private organizations as well as civil society are engaged in the implementation process.

Furthermore, in response to the threats emanating from the “foreign terrorist fighters” phenomenon, Georgia constantly carries out counter-terrorism measures in a complex format. At the policy level, Georgia has substantially enhanced its counterterrorist legislation to criminalize foreign terrorist fighters’ travel, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. Particular attention is given to strengthening state border security on the ground.

Mr. Chair,

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy stands as a pivotal instrument in the collective global effort to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It underscores the significance of a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to counter-terrorism, acknowledging that effective responses extend beyond mere security measures to encompass prevention, legal measures, and protection of human rights. In the context where the threat of terrorism knows no boundaries, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy plays an important role. Its successful implementation is crucial not only for the security and well-being of nations but also for the preservation of the fundamental values of peace, human rights, and the rule of law.

Terrorism is a dynamic and evolving threat. In this context, the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy allows us to assess new trends, emerging threats, and new tactics employed by terrorist groups. The review of The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a vital process that underscores our commitment to adapting and enhancing our counter-terrorism efforts.

Georgia is a party to the fourteen UN anti-terrorism conventions. Georgia has already concluded over 30 agreements on cooperation in the field of fight against crime, *inter alia*, addressing terrorism with partner countries and with EU specialized agencies, such as the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation with Europol and the Agreement on Cooperation with Eurojust. Furthermore, in terms of enhancing secure information exchange capabilities, Georgia has negotiated agreements on exchange and mutual protection of classified information with 24 partner countries, as well as with the NATO and the EU.

Mr. Chair,

Herewith, let me draw your attention to the Russia-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia. Due to the occupation, these regions remain beyond the Georgian government's effective control, and remain inaccessible for international monitoring. Subsequently, these dire circumstances, including grave security, human rights and humanitarian situation therein create a fertile ground for all sorts of illicit activities and pose serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Government of Georgia maintains a steadfast commitment to employing all available regional and international mechanisms to effectively fight the common threat of terrorism.

I thank you!