

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Statement by Mr. Yahya Aref

representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

before

**the Sixth Committee of the 79th session of General Assembly of the
United Nations**

Agenda Item 110: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Madam. Chair.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement delivered by H.E. Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation under this agenda item.

Madam. Chair.

Terrorist activities continue to pose immense threats and formidable challenges to the safety and security of societies and have detrimental impacts on economic and social development of countries while eroding the foundations of rule of law at the international level. The Islamic Republic of Iran has played a crucial and determining role in defeating terrorist groups such as ISIS in the region, such a role has always been praised by the peoples and governments of affected States; without the sacrifices of the bravest of our people, especially General Ghasem Soleimani who was at the forefront of counterterrorism in the region, the ISIS would have expanded its scourge of

terror and violence beyond the region. ISIS has been defeated and has lost its brutal control and territorial dominance, nevertheless, the threat of resurgence of this terrorist group persists as it continues to conduct terrorist attacks against law enforcement, security forces and civilians.

Throughout past year, appalling terrorist attacks in the Iranian border province of Sistan and Baluchistan as well as in South East of Iran, Kerman, were carried out by foreign-backed terrorist groups, namely, Daesh Khorasan (ISIL-K) and also Jaish al-Adl which is linked to and supported by Daesh Khorasan. The most recent instances of such terrorist acts were perpetrated on 12 September and 1 October 2024. These terrorist groups have targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure and approximately hundreds of people including women and children have been unfortunately killed and more injured as a result of the terrorist attacks of the said groups in the course of year. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns such heinous attacks and underscores its unwavering commitment to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and held accountable.

Madam Chair.

Speaking of terrorism, we cannot lose sight of the unbridled terrorist attacks perpetrated against people of West Asia including against Palestine and my country by the Israeli regime. Throughout past 11 months, the world has witnessed an exponential increase in the forms and manifestations of Israeli regime terrorist attacks. Concurrent with the persistent and systematic terrorist acts against Palestinians including targeting defenseless centers such as schools, shelters, UN camps, hospitals, and other medical facilities, the Israeli regime has also expanded the scope and intensity of its terrorist acts manifested in various forms across the region. The latest cruel acts committed by the Israeli regime, demonstrating a myriad of violations of international law are beyond words and have resulted in killing of more than 45000 of Palestinians and other peoples of the region.

On 27 September 2024, the Israeli regime in one of its most brutal and ruthless terrorist acts, perpetrated a flagrant act of terrorist aggression against residential areas in Beirut, Lebanon, assassinating Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader and General Abbas Nilforoushan, a high-ranking Iranian military adviser who both were true champions in fighting terrorism and symbols of resistance against occupation. On 1 April 2024, the Israeli occupying regime perpetrated a heinous and abhorrent terrorist attack using airstrike missiles against the diplomatic premises of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Syrian Arab Republic which resulted in the martyrdom of at least seven Iranian personnel, including General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, a high-ranking Iranian military advisor.

On 31 July 2024, the Israeli regime conducted a terrorist attack in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran and assassinated Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, a high-ranking Palestinian leader. On 17 September 2024, the Israeli occupying regime carried out a premeditated terrorist attack in Beirut, Lebanon, by detonating handheld communications devices which claimed the lives of nearly a dozen of people and also left thousands injured including Mr. Mojtaba Amani Hamedani, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Lebanon.

These are only a non-exhaustive list of terrorist acts perpetrated by the Israeli regime. Nearly all of these attacks had also left thousands injured, some disabled for lifetime. Women, children, and the elderly were among the victims of these terrorist attacks.

The *modi operandi*, degree of violence, scope and intensity of these attacks should alarm the international community. The Israeli regime use of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes, its targeting of civilians and civilians properties, its willful and premeditated attacks against internationally protected persons, in particular diplomatic representatives as well as diplomatic premises demonstrate a perilous pattern in the policy and practice of terrorism by the apartheid regime of Israel violating nearly all categories of human rights and international law which if left unchecked would victimize more people.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms such blatant acts of terrorism and reiterate that all these terrorist acts of the Israeli regime jointly and separately constitute flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental principles of international law, and also amongst

others, international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Along similar lines, we also continue to condemn in the strongest possible terms the systematic terrorist attacks and other atrocious crimes of the Israeli regime against the Palestinian people which are, amongst others, gross violations of international law and fundamental human rights as well as the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

We emphasize that the international community, as part of the global counter-terrorism efforts, should hold the Israeli regime as well as all those who knowingly and internationally aid and abet the regime in the commission of all its atrocious crimes, fully accountable and must not allow the regime to operate with impunity. This would be an essential and major step to achieve a world free of terrorism as the Israeli regime is the main source of terrorism and instability of the region.

On 1 October 2024, as a direct response to the Israeli regime's repeated acts of aggression and terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Armed Forces launched a series of missile strikes targeting the military and security positions of the Israeli regime. Iran's missile strikes were necessary and proportionate. The Islamic Republic of Iran abides by its moral and Islamic values as well as its international obligations, as such the Iranian strikes have only targeted the Israeli regime's military and security installations, not civilian infrastructure. Iran's action was in full accordance with its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter. In this context, I would like to reiterate that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate to take decisive action to protect its people and legitimate interests and to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty in the face of any threat including terrorist acts of the Israeli regime.

Madam Chair. Distinguished delegates.

As part of its counter-terrorism efforts at the international level, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in conjunction with the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization organized and hosted the "AALCO Regional Conference on Preventing and Countering Terrorism" on 3rd and 4th July 2024 in Tehran. Delegations from member States and representatives of international and regional organizations including the UNODC, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the

African Union participated in this Conference where a context-specific forum for exchange of views and best practices on ways and means of enhancing international cooperation, and the development of effective strategies against terrorism, were provided.

In addressing the challenges in fighting terrorism, due regard must also be had to the negative impact of double standards and selectivity of few on counterterrorism measures, the fact that ISIS, though sporadically, could stage and conduct terrorist attacks and claim lives of innocent people lies at the heart of this discussion. Advancing politicized has emerged as a concerning and deleterious approach by few which undermines efforts in fighting terrorism and terrorist groups. The politicized phenomenon of accusing official forces of sovereign States of terrorism in pursuit of political objectives is the unfortunate result of such reprehensible approaches.

A corollary of the principle of *par in parem non habet imperium* is that equals may not initiate to exert such measures against each other, equals are not in a position to subject constitutionally-established armed forces to domestic wrongful accusations and unilateral coercive measures. We categorically reject and condemn such politically-motivated approaches and reiterate that such unlawful measures constitute flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of sovereign equality and non-intervention and is also in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations. Such an approach would only serve the malign interests of terrorist groups and runs counter to relevant obligations assumed by States in fighting terrorism.

Madam Chair, in fighting terrorism, we should address the challenges and impediments, in particular, the unilateral coercive measures that developing countries face. The promulgation and application of the unilateral coercive measures, which is a flagrant violation of international law, continues to hinder cooperation of member States in countering terrorism and undermines their access to the necessary resources, tools and technologies that could otherwise contribute to the fight against terrorism. Such internationally wrongful acts must be terminated, and member States should desist and refrain from giving effect to these harmful measures.

We reserve our right to reply to the baseless and irrelevant statement of a representative of the Israeli regime.

I thank you.