

STATEMENT of TÜRKİYE
SIXTH COMMITTEE / “MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”
(2-3 October 2024, New York)

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

As a country which has been subjected to many forms of terrorism over decades, Türkiye knows and understands first-hand the negative implications of terrorism on societies.

Terrorism is a grave violation of human rights. It undermines the fulfilment of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Therefore, we strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chair,

The rise of terrorism in different regions is concerning. Increasing terrorist activities, in Iraq and Syria, intensifying violence in Africa, increasing danger presented by the terrorist threat in and around Afghanistan, and the rise of Islamophobic and far-right violent extremism in Europe pose a threat to the global security and stability.

Terrorism in Iraq and Syria can only be fully defeated if foreign terrorist fighters and their dependents return to their home countries to be prosecuted, rehabilitated, and reintegrated to their familiar society, where they enjoy the bonds required to gain resilience against violent extremism. Considering that the camps in the north east of Syria have become a hub of radicalisation and violent extremism, their evacuation is a top priority for Türkiye.

Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to emphasise that all states must beware of the pitfalls of supporting a terrorist organisation to contain another terrorist organisation. In this context, the PKK/PYD/YPG terrorist organisation is the biggest threat to the territorial integrity of Syria. It has formed a parasitical relationship with Daesh, within which it uses Daesh to sustain itself by blackmailing some Member States.

On another note, the terrorist threat in and around Afghanistan poses new challenges such as the necessity to identify and block the new routes of movement of foreign terrorist fighters, and reprises old issues including the effects of lone-wolf radicalisation and the establishment of cell-structures in countries well away from the region.

Türkiye will keep working closely with partners in the Central Asia, especially through the Organisation of Turkic States and well-established cordial bilateral relations with the states in the region.

On the other hand, co-operating with African states is vital to degrade terrorism in the continent. In line with the mantra of “African solutions to African problems”, root causes of terrorism and violent extremism can only be tackled with the ownership of the efforts by our partners in Africa.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism threatens the safety and well-being of the peace and stability of societies, especially when humanity enjoys increased movement between borders. Inception and eruption of hatred between communities living together in harmony creates the very risk of internal strife and conflict.

Türkiye also views the rise of far-right violent extremism and Islamophobia with concern. Provocative acts in Europe such as burning of the Holy Qur'an, which are defined as religious hatred and violation of international law by recent UNHRC and UN General Assembly resolutions, only strengthen the narratives of terrorists and violent extremists.

Dear colleagues,

Diligence must also be shown for the increasing use of advanced technological equipment by terrorists, either to conduct reconnaissance and attacks or radicalisation, collect financing, or even travel. Türkiye remains vigilant in tracking the use of technology by terrorists.

We must also focus on the nexus between organised crime and terrorism. The finances of terrorism go hand in hand, through different methods in different regions. This may take the form of extorting local business to trafficking internationally controlled substances. Having witnessed and combatted such crime by the PKK/PYD/YPG and FETÖ terrorist organisations, this nexus forms another priority for Türkiye.

With all these matters in mind, counter-terrorism activities must be conducted while respecting the human rights obligations of states. Counter-terrorism cannot and must not be used by states to justify actions in gross violation of human rights law.

Countering financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering efforts should also be at the centre of the international community's approach to effectively address the problem in all its aspects. With this understanding, Türkiye will continue to fight against money laundering and terrorist financing with determination in full compliance with international standards, including taking immediate action in implementing the sanction decisions of the Security Council.

Türkiye will continue to collaborate with the international community to counter terrorism and will remain constructively engaged with the work of the Sixth Committee on these issues.

Mr. Chair,

The humanitarian situation continues to be catastrophic in Gaza.

Israeli attacks against civilians continue unabated and risking a broader regional war after its ground offensive into Lebanon.

This attack must come to an end immediately, and Israeli troops must withdraw from Lebanese territory.

Recent developments are clear signs of the risks ahead. With every passing day without a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, we are closer than ever to a regional war.

The UN Security Council must uphold international law and take the necessary measures against this attack that aims the occupation of Lebanon. Every crime committed by Israel is also a blow to international law and the UN Charter.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

The main step that must be taken to restore peace in the region is to achieve immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Bringing peace to Gaza is the responsibility of the entire humanity.

Mr. Chair,

Before concluding, I would like to underline that it is crucial to uphold human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

Equally important is to support and protect the rights of the victims of terrorism.

Türkiye will continue to collaborate with the international community to counter terrorism and will remain constructively engaged with the work of the Sixth Committee on this item.

I thank you.