



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT
BY**

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**AT THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 6TH COMMITTEE 79TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AGENDA ITEM 110
“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”**

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[Please check against delivery]

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Uganda. At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election to steer the work of the Sixth Committee. You can count on Uganda's strong cooperation and support throughout the work of the Sixth Committee.

My Delegation aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Uganda would like to express its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" contained in document A/79/99.

Madam Chairperson,

Uganda condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, for whatever purpose by whomsoever. Terrorism can never be justified under any pretext. We reiterate our position that in order to have a meaningful/successful fight against terrorism, we must be prepared to take the hard decisions, including assigning a comprehensive definition of terrorism. This is a minimum requirement that isolates terrorism; and thus, differentiating it from other legitimate struggles.

Terrorist acts constitute one of the most flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life, leading to the lack of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples, and that such acts endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security, destabilize legitimately constituted governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States, affect the stability of nations and the very basis of societies, as well as create adverse consequences on the economic and social development and cause the destruction of the physical and economic infrastructure of States;

The circumstances and conditions under which terrorism thrives must be addressed before there can be any hope to ultimately eradicate the threat. In order to eradicate the problem, the root causes must be identified. This would enable the international community from concentrating on the symptoms. Accordingly, we call on the international community to address the root causes of terrorism. Poverty needs to be addressed as one of the conditions under which terrorism thrives.

Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures that include, inter alia, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy;

My delegation fully appreciates and supports the work done so far by the ad hoc committee in drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We reiterate the importance of the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism (CCIT) and the continued effort to that end. We welcome the resumption of the

informal consultations on the outstanding issues relating to the draft CCIT, and we further call upon all Member States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues.

My delegation stands ready to work actively with other delegations to achieve consensus regarding 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.

My delegation supports the establishment of the United Nations Office Program Office for Counter Terrorism and Training in Africa, which will make an important contribution in counter terrorism through capacity building support to Member States of the region. It will serve as a training hub to build counter-terrorism capacities and cooperation in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel. This training hub will develop and deliver specialized counter-terrorism and law enforcement training programmes to requesting Member States in Africa. My delegation also welcomes the establishment of the regional programme office of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in Nairobi, Kenya, to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism in East Africa.

Madam Chairperson

During the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Kampala, Uganda our leaders stated that terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalization of the Palestinian people remaining under Israeli occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and that the use of State power by Israel for the suppression and violence against peoples struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned.

We must collectively engage in efforts aimed at denying terrorists any havens, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing state vulnerability, and enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Under the auspices of the African Union, Uganda is the biggest contributor to different peace-keeping forces, and in that capacity, has been at the forefront of fighting terrorist groups. In many situations, terrorists take advantage of weak government structures in order to force recruits into their ranks. Accordingly, all efforts should be stepped up with assistance to the Governments so as to develop institutions which have the capacity to deal with terrorist organizations that look at some states as a safe haven for terrorist activities.

Uganda welcomes the convening of the high-level meeting in Abuja on terrorism. The High-Level Counter-Terrorism Meeting provided an opportunity for Member States and partners to

share best practices and lessons learnt in addressing terrorism in Africa; developing an African-led and African-owned approach to countering terrorism on the continent; strengthening synergies in regional and sub-regional endeavors for addressing the scourge of terrorism on the Continent; and building the capacities of AU Member States affected by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

We welcome the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution (78/43) entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” and underlined the need for this threat to humanity to be addressed within the UN framework and through international co-operation. While stressing that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is through the total elimination of such weapons, we emphasize that progress was urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism. They called upon all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We urge all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

Madam Chairperson, Uganda remains resolute in its commitment to combat terrorism through adherence to international legal instruments, aligning our national strategies with global counter-terrorism efforts to ensure a comprehensive approach to security and public safety. Terrorism poses a grave threat to international peace and security, and as such, Uganda is at the forefront of implementing these instruments to counter this menace effectively.

Addressing challenges and obstacles to fighting terrorism requires a multi-faceted approach that involves strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms and fostering partnerships with civil society organizations, and raising awareness about legal rights among the general population. Further, there is need to ensure that international frameworks and legislative bodies adapt swiftly to rapid advancements in technology ensuring that legal frameworks can promptly identify and address emerging challenges, especially in the context of combating terrorism by:

- (a) Putting in place structures for proactive measures to fight crime to facilitate research and inform the emerging trends in the criminal justice system. This could be done by forming teams that focus solely on putting in place proactive mechanisms for fighting terrorism.
- (b) Encouraging joint investigation and prosecution not necessarily by states affected by terrorism at a given time, but by teams to observe, document and make recommendations for future use.

- (c) Reviewing mechanisms for success stories. For example, Uganda and the world over had and still do have many lessons to learn and unlearn from the 2010 bombing case that is key to the investigation and prosecution of terrorism
- (d) Clarifying on the issue of costs of mutual legal assistance. This should be given more clarity if international cooperation is to be realized. Most international instruments leave it to the requested country if the cost involved is reasonable. Reasonability is left to individual interpretation which makes it even more complicated to practically comprehend and implement.
- (e) Acknowledging that technology advancement is at different levels in different member states. This affects the ability to respond to requests that are beyond a state's technological capacity.

In conclusion, Uganda reaffirms its commitment to promoting international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing terrorism, and other forms of transboundary crime. By working together with the global community, Uganda aims at strengthening its law enforcement capacities, enhance international cooperation, and combating terrorism effectively.

I thank you.