

Statement by

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at the Sixth Committee of the 79th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 110: “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to join other speakers in congratulating you and other bureau members on your election to the Sixth Committee of the 79th Session and assure you of our full support and cooperation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN, and Iran on behalf of the NAM, respectively.

Mr. Chair,

Our world continues to encounter multifaceted challenges, threatening peace and security in different parts of the world. In addition, the imbalance in socio-economic development coupled with ineffective global governance, escalating geopolitical tensions, and social injustice have increased widespread terrorist activities. As we are aware, terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace and security and hinders socio-economic development. All acts of terrorism regardless of who commits it, are never justified and should be condemned unequivocally.

Mr. Chair,

Lao PDR commends the Secretary-General for his report on the measures to eliminate international terrorism, as contained in the document (A/79/99). We note that the current global terrorism landscape has become increasingly complex and interlinked and no single country can effectively address or prevent these challenges alone. Hence, it's indispensable for the international community at all levels to strengthen our collective efforts, cooperation, and information sharing in combating terrorism based on the principle of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Lao PDR attaches great importance to addressing this global challenge and has taken all measures to fight against terrorism. In July this year, the National Assembly adopted a new amendment to the Law on Anti-money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism. This amendment aims to ensure that the existing national law is more concise, particularly regarding the offenses related to terrorist activities in accordance with international standards and norms. In addition, the Lao government is in the process of developing a decree on the Counter Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. This is an important step toward joining the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering, which commits to a mutual peer review system or mutual evaluations to determine the levels of compliance with the international AML/CFT standards

Moreover, the Lao PDR has organized a nationwide awareness campaign and workshops on anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism for officers in the line ministries to enhance their understanding of their mandates and obligations regarding the implementation of domestic laws and international treaties related to anti-money laundering.

Mr. Chair,

The Lao PDR is of the view that the use of force is not the only way to fight against and eliminate terrorism. Addressing the root causes of terrorism such as preventing political and armed conflicts, addressing socio-economic disparities, and ensuring social justice, among others, are more crucial than ever. To this end, we must strive to achieve sustainable development, reduce poverty, strengthen community resilience, and eliminate radicalization. It's crucial to ensure that all measures to prevent and combat terrorism must fully comply with international laws, including international human rights law and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, and refrain from applying double standards in addressing this critical issue.

In conclusion, the Lao PRD reaffirms its unwavering commitment to working closely with the international community and relevant stakeholders to combat terrorism.

I thank you.