

Seventy-ninth session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 110

Measures to eliminate international terrorism
Oral report of the Chair of the Working Group
Chair: Mr. Peter Mohan Maithri **Pieris**
(Sri Lanka)

Mr. Chair,

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/115 of 7 December 2023, the Sixth Committee, at its first meeting, on 2 October 2024, decided to establish a working group to finalize the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to discuss the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.
2. At the same meeting, the Sixth Committee elected me as Chair of the Working Group. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 51/210 and consistent with past practice, the Working Group was open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
3. The Working Group decided that regional groups will consult and make available representatives to serve among the Friends of the Chair, in line with established practice.
4. The Working Group had before it for discussion, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its sixteenth session (A/68/37), which contains as Annex I the preamble and articles 1, 2, and 4 to 27 of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism (hereinafter the “draft comprehensive convention”), prepared by the Bureau, incorporating the various provisions contained in A/C.6/65/L.10; and written proposals

relating to the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention, contained in the report as Annex II.

5. The Working Group also had before it relevant letters from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, that is, the letter from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 1 September 2005 ([A/60/329](#)), and the letter dated 30 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Sixth Committee ([A/C.6/60/2](#)). Attention was also drawn to last year's oral report by the Chair of the Working Group, as reflected in document [A/C.6/78/SR.36](#).

II. Proceedings of the Working Group

6. The Working Group held two meetings, on 11 October and 5 November 2024. The Working Group adopted its programme of work and held its discussions in the framework of informal consultations. The informal consultations were chaired by me. The Working Group was informed that Ambassador Michael Kanu (Sierra Leone) was no longer available to serve in the capacities as one of the Friends of the Chair and coordinator of the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention. The Working Group paid tribute to Ambassador Kanu for his contribution to the work of the Working Group.

III. Informal summary

7. The present informal summary is for reference purposes only and is not an official record of the proceedings.

8. Consistent with previous practice, and in accordance with [resolution 78/115](#), the informal consultations were devoted to discussing the outstanding issues on the draft comprehensive convention and the proposal made by Egypt concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The informal consultations were held against the backdrop of the plenary debate on the item "measures to eliminate international terrorism" held at the [1st](#), [2nd](#), [3rd](#), [4th](#) and [5th](#) plenary meetings of the Sixth Committee, held on 2, 3 and 4 October 2024, during which delegations in most part reiterated positions on the draft comprehensive convention, generally expressing support for its conclusion, and on the convening of the high-level conference.

9. During informal consultations on the draft comprehensive convention, held on 11 October, I gave an overview of the work undertaken over the years in the context of the Working Group and the Ad Hoc Committee established pursuant to resolution 51/210. Background was provided to delegations on the status of the negotiations regarding the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention. It was recalled that the work has proceeded on the general understanding that further consideration would be given to all written amendments and proposals that are on the table, together with all other written and oral proposals, in future discussions, including on outstanding issues. Particular attention was drawn to the 2013 Bureau proposal (A/68/37), as well as an informal non-paper of the former coordinator of the outstanding issues, Mr. Angel Horna, on a possible way to overcome differences on the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention and comments were invited on the latter, bearing in mind recent efforts to consider other pathways towards reaching agreement on the text.

10. In the brief discussion that ensued, several delegations expressed their continued interest in the efforts of the Working Group towards reaching agreement on the outstanding issues, while the view was expressed that it was necessary to ensure that the work of the Working Group was not duplicative or damaging to existing policy frameworks. The need to constructively engage in focused discussions within the Working Group was emphasised by several delegations. It was highlighted that terrorism should not be associated with, and should be distinguished from, the right of peoples to self-determination. It was stated that the draft comprehensive convention should not be used to justify criminal acts and should not affect military forces.

11. At the informal consultations held on 5 November regarding the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the continued relevance of this proposal was reiterated by the sponsor delegation of Egypt. A number of delegations reiterated their support for convening a high-level conference. Other delegations indicated that holding a high-level conference would be premature without first achieving consensus on the outstanding issues and that States should instead focus their efforts on adhering to already existing international instruments. While it was stated that convening a high-level conference could detract efforts from work

being undertaken elsewhere in the Organization, some delegations were of the view that a high-level conference and United Nations efforts in combating terrorism were not mutually exclusive. Lastly, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, I attempted to make a nuanced proposal on the definition of international terrorism, in light of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions and the Charter of the United Nations, for delegations' consideration and reflection.

12. As Chair of the Working Group, I am most grateful to delegations for their continued interest, cooperation and assistance on a matter that is complex in many dimensions. I encourage delegations to continue working together intersessionally. I also reiterate my call for the regional groups to consult and make available representatives to serve among the Friends of the Chair. In addition, I encourage regional groups to consult and see if there is a wish to continue with the practice of appointing one of the Friends as coordinator of the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention.

13. I recommend that the Committee take note of the present oral report.

Thank you.