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Chair: Mr. Salinas Burgos (Chile)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/66/37, A/66/96 and A/66/96/Add.1)

1. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia) said that international cooperation was the most important counter-terrorism tool. By adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had unanimously agreed for the first time on the need for a comprehensive strategic framework for combating terrorism. In order for the Strategy to succeed, greater synergy was needed between the United Nations and national and regional efforts. Moreover, the complex root causes of terrorism had to be comprehensively addressed. Counter-terrorism efforts must respect the rule of law, human rights and democratic principles and combine law enforcement measures with a soft-power approach that promoted tolerance and sought to eradicate extremism.

2. The recently held Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation had reflected the strong determination of the international community to respond to the challenge of terrorism. In that regard, he welcomed the initiative of the Government of Saudi Arabia on the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the recently launched Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. There were also notable initiatives in the Asian region to strengthen regional cooperation in a number of areas, including border security, intelligence sharing, combating the financing of terrorism and promoting tolerance. Indonesia was actively involved in the work of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in that regard and believed that the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism had great potential to support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

3. Indonesia had ratified seven of the 16 instruments relating to counter-terrorism and was working closely with the United Nations to promote their wider ratification and implementation. To that end, the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation had been established to enhance the capacity of law enforcement authorities in the Asia-Pacific region and had trained thousands of participants from countries in the region. His Government had implemented law enforcement and legislative measures, organized interfaith dialogues to empower moderates and carried

out de-radicalization programmes in order to combat terrorism. In that connection, his Government called for the speedy completion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

4. **Mr. Somdah** (Burkina Faso) said that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 had radically changed the world; the persistence and globalization of terrorism represented the most serious challenge to international peace and security. The Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation had been a productive opportunity for advancing international cooperation. His Government supported the central role of the United Nations in combating terrorism through the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which advocated taking development and human rights issues into consideration as well as security matters, and welcomed the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). He urged States to work towards the implementation of the Strategy and to adhere to the relevant international counter-terrorism instruments, particularly those concerning terrorist financing and the taking of hostages. With respect to strengthening the international legal counter-terrorism framework, it was time to settle on the definition of terrorism and to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

5. He drew attention to resolutions 2004/44 and 2005/31 of the Commission on Human Rights and Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1456 (2003) and 1624 (2005), which had called for counter-terrorism measures to be in conformity with all international obligations and respect international legal norms, particularly with respect to human rights, rights of refugees and humanitarian law. He commended the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the efforts made to improve the fairness and transparency of the procedures of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

6. The 1999 African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism reflected the African position with respect to combating terrorism. The accompanying Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, adopted in 2002, promoted poverty reduction policies, the solution of social, economic and political problems and close coordination among African countries and their international partners. The African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism worked to ensure that the

response to terrorism took into account the continent's economic and social development aspirations.

7. His Government's participation in the security mechanism for countries of the Sahel and its commitment to its international obligations greatly benefited cooperation at the subregional and international levels. Only dialogue and understanding could prevent terrorism and only tolerance and trust could eliminate it. Counter-terrorism and human rights were compatible, and ignoring the latter would encourage terrorists in their efforts to call into question the principles of democracy, liberty and humanity.

8. **Mr. Hassan Ali Hassan Ali** (Sudan) said that his Government wished to reiterate its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. It was regrettable that, more than 10 years after the attacks of 11 September 2001, terrorists continued to strike throughout world, their choice of targets clearly demonstrating that terrorism could not be associated with any religion, race or nationality.

9. Terrorism would never be defeated by military means or by confronting terror with terror. Greater political will, enhanced regional and international cooperation and implementation of international instruments were the only means by which terrorism could be eradicated. In that connection, his Government reiterated its commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called on the Organization to continue supporting the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF).

10. Guided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Government had adopted legislation that criminalized all forms of terrorism and incitement to commit acts of terrorism. It had also enacted laws to counter the financing of terrorism and money-laundering, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), while laws concerning atomic energy and cybercrime were in the drafting stage. His Government had furthermore fully complied with Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) and fulfilled its reporting obligation with regard to implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

11. Arriving at a clear and objective definition of terrorism remained a fundamental challenge. Any definition should make a clear distinction between terrorist movements and groups engaged in legitimate

struggle against foreign occupation and should condemn terrorism practised by an occupying State. Moreover, terrorism should not be associated with Islam and Muslims, or with any culture or group. His Government welcomed calls for the convening of an international conference on terrorism, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the purpose of defining terrorism and to coordinate international counter-terrorism efforts, taking into account the role of regional organizations and, in that connection, the Bali Commemorative Declaration adopted by the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali from 23 to 27 May 2011.

12. In order to counter terrorism, it was vital to identify its root causes and address them within the framework of international law, while avoiding double standards and discrimination as well as interference in the affairs of others. States must also strive to put an end to all conflicts and foreign occupation and to support peoples' right to self-determination. His delegation welcomed the initiative of His Highness King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia to support the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism.

13. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia) said that his Government, too, condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated that it could never be justified for any reason or under any circumstances. Terrorism was contrary to and undermined international law and the values shared by the international community.

14. Although there was no internationally agreed definition of terrorism, existing laws clearly defined the types of conduct that constituted an act of terrorism. Accordingly, such conduct was an act of terrorism under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, regardless of when and by whom it was committed, and should be strongly condemned by the international community.

15. Recalling that considerable progress had been made towards universal adoption of the existing international counter-terrorism instruments, which constituted an internationally agreed and binding legal framework, he said that States must not only become parties to those instruments, but also strive to ensure their effective implementation. They should work jointly towards the early adoption of a comprehensive

convention on international terrorism. He called on all delegations to work towards a consensus solution, because the lack of such a convention hindered international counter-terrorism efforts.

16. In addition to its efforts to suppress terrorism, his Government sought to strengthen the relevant instruments and mechanisms at both the local and international levels. It was active in several new regional and multilateral cooperation mechanisms to combat terrorism and, in that connection, considered the United Nations to be the primary multilateral forum for negotiating and concluding international counter-terrorism instruments. It was particularly important for the relevant United Nations entities to cooperate closely with each other, and CTITF had a key role to play in that regard.

17. Protecting victims' rights was a crucial element of the struggle against terrorism, and it was incumbent on States to take practical measures to protect and promote those rights. In that connection, his Government had recently adopted legislation that would give effect to judicial, administrative, social and economic measures aimed at enabling victims to exercise their right to truth, justice and compensation.

18. The international community's aim must be to eradicate terrorism and the criminal activities which support it. That goal could only be achieved through comprehensive and decisive action, cooperation and full compliance with international law.

19. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that the horrific attacks of 11 September 2001 had culminated in a robust international partnership to help rid his country of terrorists and extremists. The tyrannical Taliban regime supported by Al-Qaida had given way to successive democratic elections in which all Afghans could exercise their right to self-determination. Important progress in all spheres of society had been achieved, and the Afghan people were on a path towards assuming greater ownership of national affairs. Nonetheless, there had been a recent rise in the number of terrorist attacks on schoolchildren, security forces and national leaders, including the recent assassination of former President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

20. Terrorism would not go away without the elimination of safe havens. States must therefore comply with General Assembly resolution 49/60 and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which called on States to prevent their territories from being utilized

for organizing terrorist acts. Terrorism affected peoples of all nationalities, religions and backgrounds, and efforts to combat it required effective regional and international cooperation. In that respect, he underscored the importance of enhanced measures for implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and of the work of the counter-terrorism committees established pursuant to various Security Council resolutions and that of CTITF and CTED. Afghanistan was an active participant in counter-terrorism cooperation, having submitted its national reports on the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and having become a party to 13 international instruments dealing with terrorism.

21. His Government welcomed the successful outcome of the recent Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and looked forward to the opening of the new United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism, which would help consolidate cooperation and build the capacity of relevant State institutions to combat terrorism. It was of paramount importance to resolve outstanding issues and finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It was also important to convene a high-level conference on counter-terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations to help formulate a joint and effective response to terrorism.

22. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, although the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was an important tool in the fight against terrorism, it would not be effective unless steps were taken to address the factors that fuelled terrorism, including poverty, injustice, social and economic inequality, political, ethnic and religious intolerance, infringement of human rights, foreign occupation and the violation of the sovereignty of peoples and nations.

23. As a strong advocate of the principle of sovereignty, his Government would never allow its territory to be used by or give financial support to terrorists or terrorist groups. The Government was a party to the principal international and regional counter-terrorism instruments and complied fully with its obligations thereunder. It had also carried out legislative reforms with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of its counter-terrorism efforts.

24. No tangible gains would be made in opposing terrorism unless States imposed sanctions against those

States that committed terrorist actions under pretexts such as the improper application of the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter or the inappropriate enforcement of Security Council resolutions under the guise of “protecting civilians”.

25. The international community should encourage cooperation among States in order to ensure the prompt punishment of those responsible for terrorist actions, whether individuals, groups or States. It was therefore important for States to arrive at a consensus with regard to a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would enable them to combat effectively, and in full compliance with international law, all forms of terrorism, including State-sponsored terrorism. The international community must also recognize the right of people to determine their destinies freely and fight against foreign domination and occupation.

26. Recalling that, under the relevant international laws, States were required to suppress acts of terrorism and ensure that their perpetrators did not enjoy impunity, he said that his Government once again demanded that the United States of America should either prosecute or extradite to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who was responsible for the in-flight bombing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in 1976, killing the 73 people on board. He also called on the United States to extradite three individuals who had been convicted for terrorist offences in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and to release the five Cuban counter-terrorism heroes who were imprisoned in its jails.

27. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that international terrorism was one of the main threats to international peace and security, economic development and peaceful relations between States. The international community should therefore continue its tireless quest for the best strategies to prevent and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. His Government supported a multilateral approach, guided by the rules of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law. The United Nations was the unique structure capable of equally engaging all Member States in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The CTITF seminar to be held for countries in Southern Africa later in 2011 would allow for an exchange on the best ways to deal with terrorism in the subregion.

28. Mozambique and the other member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had established national early warning centres to feed information about various regional threats, including terrorism, to the SADC Regional Early Warning Centre. The SADC member States had also begun work on the African Model Law on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. Recognizing the link between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, Mozambique was also a party to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

29. His Government was concerned by the lack of progress with regard to the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and hoped that the parties would show greater flexibility and genuine political will in the negotiation process.

30. **Mr. Šćepanović** (Montenegro) said that his Government supported every initiative aimed at combating terrorism and fully supported efforts towards the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as the foundation of an effective response to terrorism at all levels. CTITF was important for promoting and coordinating international cooperation and counter-terrorism efforts. Success was only possible through the joint engagement of all Member States and relevant international organizations in the development of a comprehensive approach to the complex threat of terrorism.

31. His Government had implemented numerous legislative measures for preventing and combating terrorism, such as the strategy for the prevention and suppression of money-laundering and terrorist financing. A national commission had been established to coordinate and monitor the counter-terrorism activities of all government institutions. Security structures had been strengthened and special operations and military police task forces were leading the charge.

32. At the regional level, Montenegrin institutions took part in joint training sessions, working groups and seminars that provided opportunities for participants from countries in the region to explore ways of dealing with the threat of terrorism. His Government was strongly committed to fulfilling the obligations arising from the international legal framework for combating terrorism and related challenges such as organized

crime and illicit drug and arms trafficking, in particular as set out in Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 1989 (2011) and the arms trade treaty which was being drafted.

33. **Mr. Roscoe** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the scourge of terrorism continued to be deeply felt by countries around the world, with 10,000 fatalities reported in 2010. Progress had been achieved in the form of improved international cooperation, law enforcement and military collaboration. In particular, Al-Qaida's leadership was at its weakest since 11 September 2001 and had been irrelevant to the recent political change in North Africa and the Middle East. Its ideology had been discredited and it had failed in all its objectives.

34. The United Nations was fundamental to the global counter-terrorism effort. Its sanctions regimes, CTITF and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy sent a clear message that Member States considered terrorism in all its forms unacceptable. The actions taken by States to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, combined with the contributions of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, had been central in countering the threat of terrorism. More effective restrictions on the movement and fund-raising activities of terrorism groups were necessary in order to reduce the likelihood of future attacks. His delegation welcomed the steps taken by the Security Council to reinforce due process elements in the United Nations sanctions regime and commended the increased role of the Ombudsperson in that regard. It called for the early conclusion of negotiations on the comprehensive convention on international terrorism and stood ready to consider the 2007 proposal in that regard.

35. Counter-terrorism was a top domestic priority in the United Kingdom, and his Government's counter-terrorism strategy reflected its commitment to combating terrorism in a way that was consistent with its commitment to human rights and the rule of law. His Government worked hard to counter the voices of those who promoted violent extremism, and it stood ready to help Member States and civil society groups to prevent radicalization. His Government's intensive diplomatic efforts were complemented by a comprehensive bilateral counter-terrorism assistance programme available to civilian and military institutions, which focused on the rule of law, good

governance, judicial reform and proper policing. The programme assisted States in developing their governance systems, making them better equipped to deter and prosecute terrorists.

36. **Mr. Manjgaladze** (Georgia) said that since the attacks of 11 September 2001, innocent civilians had continued to become victims of terrorist attacks around the globe. It was his Government's firm belief that the international community needed to act as one and to address the structural and triggering causes of terrorism in order to ensure the success of the counter-terrorism strategy.

37. The Committee had the unfulfilled responsibility to conclude negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which needed to include a clear and precise definition of terrorism and define the relationship between the convention and other branches of international law while preserving the integrity of international humanitarian law. The definition of terrorism was of the utmost importance in order to protect small nations from threats to their very existence under the pretext of counter-terrorism operations. There had been 12 known instances of attempted or realized terrorist attacks and acts of sabotage in Georgia, all of which had been sponsored and coordinated using occupied regions of Georgia as a safe haven. A high-level conference on terrorism would provide an excellent opportunity to take stock of counter-terrorism efforts and to identify needs and the resources available to States in implementing the comprehensive convention.

38. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivations and objectives, and remained committed to combating it and to fulfilling its commitments in accordance with international law. The Permanent National Inter-agency Antiterrorist Commission coordinated and made recommendations for improving Georgia's counter-terrorism response and the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

39. While his Government planned to increase its participation in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, it believed that combating terrorism took more than military means. The promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law was a priority in Georgia's overall approach to combating terrorism. Democracy, freedom of speech and the rule of law were all crucial in preventing the

emergence of terrorism. To that end, human rights awareness training had been integrated into the professional code of conduct of civilian and military authorities.

40. **Mr. Ould Hadrami** (Mauritania) said that his Government had always strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and rejected its systematic association with religious and cultural factors. Terrorism threatened collective peace and security, democracy and development, and collective action was needed to address its causes. The international community had responded with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the establishment of CTITF, among other measures.

41. His Government had adopted a revised counter-terrorism law in 2010, which condemned cybercrime as one of the modern manifestations of terrorism and sought to strengthen control over Mauritania's porous maritime and land borders. In addition, Mauritania participated in the Joint Operational Chiefs of Staff Committee, together with Algeria, Mali and the Niger, which sought to strengthen military and security cooperation in the Sahel region and demonstrate the solidarity of those States in combating terrorism and international crime by monitoring cross-border activity and holding joint manoeuvres.

42. **Mr. Al Farhan** (Saudi Arabia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said, in response to the false allegations made against his Government by the representative of Israel at the preceding meeting, that his Government remained as committed as ever to upholding its international commitments and obligations. He advised Israel to end its occupation, to adhere to the relevant United Nations resolutions and to begin respecting international legitimacy, before throwing baseless accusations at sovereign States without studying the facts and the relevant conditions and circumstances. The dark history of Israel and its violations of all rights and international law was well documented within the United Nations archives. It was a scientific fact that the biggest sign of lying was deflection.

Agenda item 167: Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly (A/66/141; A/C.6/66/L.2)

43. **Mr. Şahinol** (Turkey), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/66/L.2 on observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/66/141 and said that the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States (CCTS) had been created in 2009 as an international intergovernmental organization with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive cooperation among its four founding member States, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. According to the Nakhchivan Agreement, which was one of the Cooperation Council's statutory documents, the States members of CCTS embraced the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, along with other universally recognized principles of international law. Established norms related to the maintenance of peace and security and the development of good-neighbourly relations laid the foundation for cooperation to be developed under CCTS.

44. As an intergovernmental organization dedicated to strengthening peace and stability, promoting cooperation and unleashing the potential for common development among its member States, the Cooperation Council fully adhered to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. By promoting deeper relations and solidarity among Turkic-speaking countries, it served as a new regional instrument for enriching international cooperation in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Given the clear complementarity of their goals, granting of observer status in the General Assembly to CCTS would initiate a mutually beneficial institutional dialogue between the two organizations. It would also bring about coherence of efforts and open avenues for future cooperation in specific areas.

45. **Mr. Morrill** (Canada) said that States should clearly indicate whether the organization requesting observer status met the requirements set out in General Assembly decision 49/426 or that an exception to those requirements was being requested.

46. **Ms. Rodríguez-Pineda** (Guatemala) said that her delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Canada and called for a comprehensive discussion of the procedure by which

the Committee considered requests for observer status. Her delegation was also of the view that the Committee should set aside more time for the consideration of such requests and acknowledge when an exception was being made to the requirements set out by the General Assembly. It behoved the Committee to hold that discussion before proceeding any further with its consideration of the current agenda item.

47. **Mr. Limeres** (Argentina) said that his delegation agreed with the points made by the representatives of Canada and Guatemala and recalled that his Government had, on many occasions, stated that requests for observer status should be accompanied by the constitutive document of the relevant entity.

48. **The Chair** said that the Bureau had taken note of the points raised by delegations and that the Committee would take up the issue at a future meeting.

Agenda item 168: Observer status for the Union of South American Nations in the General Assembly
(A/66/144; A/C.6/66/L.3)

49. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/66/L.3 on observer status for the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/66/144 and announced that Cuba, Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago had joined the list of sponsors. UNASUR was an intergovernmental union of 12 South American republics, all of which were States Members of the United Nations. UNASUR was founded on the shared history of the nations of the South American continent and the conviction that regional integration and unity were necessary for the promotion of sustainable development and resolution of shared problems, such as persistent poverty, social exclusion and inequality. The organization was dedicated to strengthening the international presence of the region and fully adhered to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

50. The UNASUR Constitutive Treaty, which had entered into force in March 2011, outlined the objectives of the organization and defined its institutional structure. The organization was committed to promoting dialogue and strengthening cooperation with other regional groups, thus complementing the work of the United Nations in the region. Gaining

observer status in the General Assembly was a natural extension of that commitment. Given that UNASUR met the criteria for observer status set out in General Assembly decision 49/426, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would receive unanimous support.

51. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), **Mr. Quintana** (Colombia), **Mr. Limeres** (Argentina), **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), **Ms. Silveira** (Uruguay), **Mr. Silva** (Brazil), **Mr. Delgado Sánchez** (Cuba), **Mr. Archondo** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), **Mr. Sánchez Contreras** (Mexico), **Mr. Bonifaz** (Peru), **Mr. Troya** (Ecuador), **Ms. Sandoval** (Nicaragua) and **Mr. Eden Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that their delegations supported the request for the granting of observer status to UNASUR.

Agenda item 169: Observer status for the International Renewable Energy Agency in the General Assembly
(A/66/145; A/C.6/66/L.4)

52. **Mr. Alshemali** (United Arab Emirates), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/66/L.4 on observer status for the International Renewable Energy Agency in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/66/145 and said that Afghanistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Slovenia, the Sudan and Qatar had become sponsors.

53. An intergovernmental organization with close ties to the United Nations, the International Renewable Energy Agency in the General Assembly (IRENA) was mandated with promoting the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy. In addition to providing scientific and technical assistance to States in the field of renewable energy, the Agency also facilitated the transfer of technology, assisted States in developing their capacities and provided policy advice on the use of renewable energy sources in all areas of development. The Agency enjoyed the privileges and immunities accorded to all international organizations and complied fully with requirements for observer status set out in General Assembly decision 49/426. The granting of observer status to IRENA would enhance the Agency's ability to fulfil its mandate and would foster cooperation between it and the agencies of the United Nations, as well as other international organizations. It would also enhance States' ability to develop sources of renewable energy, stimulate

investment in various economic sectors and support international efforts aimed at fighting climate change and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

54. **Mr. Nikolaichik** (Belarus) said that his delegation supported granting observer status in the General Assembly to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). In the light of growing global energy consumption, IRENA had the potential to play a key role in the development of renewable energy by facilitating intergovernmental dialogue towards the conclusion of agreements on issues pertaining to the sustainable development of the global economy. Its work would accelerate the development of a global partnership in the energy sector which would benefit all States Members of the United Nations. IRENA had achieved rapid progress on improving its staffing and on streamlining its cooperation with other international institutions and public and private research entities.

55. In recent years, his Government had supported the establishment of a global mechanism for accessing modern technologies for using new and renewable sources of energy, believing that it would lead to stronger international partnerships in the field of energy. The granting of observer status to IRENA would enable it to become more involved in the building of a global energy partnership under the aegis of the United Nations. Moreover, participation by IRENA in the work of the General Assembly would be especially timely in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Agenda item 170: Observer status for the Central European Initiative in the General Assembly
(A/66/191; A/C.6/66/L.5)

56. **Mr. Starčević** (Serbia), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/66/L.5 on observer status for the Central European Initiative in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I of document A/66/191. As an intergovernmental forum for consultation among its 18 member States on political, economic and technical matters and other areas of cooperation, the Initiative fully satisfied the requirements for observer status. The Initiative already cooperated with some United Nations specialized agencies and programmes and regional organizations, and a number of its priorities were in line with the Millennium Development Goals. Observer status would significantly contribute to the

Initiative's collaboration with the United Nations on issues of common interest.

Agenda item 171: Observer status for United Cities and Local Governments in the General Assembly
(A/66/192; A/C.6/66/L.6)

57. **Mr. Şahinol** (Turkey), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/66/L.6 on observer status for United Cities and Local Governments in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/66/192 and said that United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was a world organization of local and regional authorities. With members in 140 countries, it represented the interests of its membership before the international community and promoted exchange and innovation among its members while fostering solidarity and development cooperation. Local governments had a long history of cooperation with the United Nations, and UCLG and its founding organizations had been in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1947. While that status had ensured local government participation in United Nations meetings, it was not sufficient because, under that arrangement, local authorities were classified as non-governmental organizations and had no direct link with the General Assembly, the principal policymaking body of the United Nations. Although it did not meet the definition of an intergovernmental organization, UCLG nonetheless deserved to be granted observer status in view of its long history of cooperation with the United Nations and the international nature of its membership.

58. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) said that, although its activities covered matters that were of interest to the General Assembly, UCLG was not an intergovernmental organization, and therefore only partially met the requirements set out in General Assembly decision 49/426. Her delegation had repeatedly stated that the constitutive document of any entity requesting observer status should be made available to the Committee.

59. Since UCLG had not provided its constitutive document, her delegation had consulted the organization's statute of its own initiative and determined that it was not an intergovernmental organization, but rather an association established under private law. The consultative status of UCLG with the Economic and Social Council demonstrated

that it was, in fact, a non-governmental organization. Her delegation therefore had serious reservations about granting UCLG observer status.

60. **Ms. Cabello de Daboin** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her delegation agreed with the observations made by the representative of Argentina and aligned itself with the statements that had been made earlier by the representatives of Canada and Guatemala. Her delegation also wished to express its reservations regarding the request for observer status submitted by UCLG.

61. **Ms. Guo Xiaomei** (China) said that her delegation, too, had reservations about granting UCLG observer status because it was not an intergovernmental organization.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.