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Chair: Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.6/67/1; A/C.6/67/L.1)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document A/C.6/67/1, and to the note by the Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/67/L.1), in particular paragraphs 7 to 9 concerning the establishment of working groups.

2. With regard to agenda item 76, "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission", it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, to be chaired by a person as yet undetermined, with a view to continuing its consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and the information contained in the note by the Secretariat, and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 105, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", said it was his understanding that the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka), to continue the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continuing 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, and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of IAEA.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 84, "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction", said it was his understanding that the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica), to continue its

consideration of the item, taking into account the informal paper of the Working Group at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/C.6/66/WG.3/1), and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chair** drew attention to the proposed timetable for the Committee's work, contained in paragraphs 4 to 6 of the note by the Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/67/L.1). If he heard no objection, he would take it that, as requested by the International Law Commission in paragraph 299 of its report on the work of its sixty-fourth session (A/67/10), the Committee wished to invite Mr. Alain Pellet, who had served as Special Rapporteur for the topic, "Reservations to treaties", to attend the Committee's debate on the chapter of the report of the Commission on the work of its sixty-third session which related to that topic (A/66/10/Add.1).

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with established practice, the proposed work programme would be applied with flexibility in light of the progress made by the Committee, which would take action on draft resolutions as soon as they were ready for adoption. The Committee must allow sufficient time for preparation and consideration of the estimates of expenditure arising from draft resolutions. Since it was scheduled to conclude its work on 16 November 2012, all draft resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 2 November 2012, except for those relating to agenda items scheduled to be considered after that date. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chair** stressed that the Committee was required to make full use of conference resources and facilities. Although it had shown improvement in that regard over the past three sessions, during the most recent session it had lost some 14 hours because of meetings starting late or ending early.

13. He took it that the Committee wished, as in the past, to follow the practice of the General Assembly in giving precedence on the list of speakers to

representatives of regional groups or other groups of States.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 59/313, which invited Member States that were aligned with statements already made by the Chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions made in their national capacity on points that had not been adequately addressed in the statements of the groups in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.

16. The Sixth Committee had been selected to take part in a trial implementation of the new Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (PaperSmart) meetings arrangement, which was being promoted by the Secretary-General as a way of modernizing the working methods of the General Assembly and promoting sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Therefore, the official documents for each meeting would be available for viewing or download both on the Committee's website and on the PaperSmart portal, which would be available to anyone with internet access and could thus be consulted in the conference room and at delegations' permanent missions and capitals. Delegations were encouraged to rely on the electronic versions of official documents since the traditional distribution of hard-copy documents and statements would be discontinued; nonetheless, paper versions of official documents would be available upon request, either through the portal or through the PaperSmart team desk in the meeting room.

17. Delegations should send their statements by e-mail to the PaperSmart team, preferably two hours in advance of delivery, and should provide only 30 hard copies of their statements for the conference servicing staff and press officers. Since the Committee had relied on the electronic dissemination of official documents through its website for over a decade, it was anticipated that the new distribution system would have no discernable impact on its work and would, in fact, facilitate that of the permanent missions.

Agenda item 105: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/67/158, and A/67/162 and Add.1)

18. **Mr. Norman** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ), said that

the Governments of the three countries were strongly committed to combating international terrorism in all its forms. The third biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had reaffirmed the four-pillar approach set out in the Global Strategy, which included measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, prevent and combat terrorism, build States' capacity in that regard and ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CANZ countries welcomed the priority given to supporting the victims of terrorism in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy" (A/66/762), endorsed the efforts to support such victims during the review period and commended the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Global Counterterrorism Forum to promote implementation of the Global Strategy.

19. They also commended the Member States that had taken steps to ratify and implement the various international counter-terrorism instruments during the past year; they noted, however, that agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism remained elusive. They welcomed the continued efforts made to that end by the Sixth Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

20. The Governments of the CANZ countries were engaged in regional counter-terrorism cooperation and capacity-building and, through their involvement with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), were working to deny terrorists access to funds. They would continue to play an active role in planning, developing and implementing measures to end the use of terror and intimidation in support of politics, religion and ideology; however, those measures must be taken collectively and with full respect for international law in order to ensure their effectiveness and legitimacy.

21. **Mr. Tricot** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, said that the European Union strongly condemned terrorism in all

its forms and manifestations and considered terrorist acts to be unjustifiable criminal acts that should be prevented, prosecuted and punished. Combating international terrorism remained one of its highest priorities and should continue to be a priority of the United Nations. That effort must be guided by fundamental democratic values, human rights, well-functioning institutions and good governance and must respect the rule of law and international law, including humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.

22. In preventing and combating terrorism, the member States of the European Union adopted a civilian law enforcement approach based on criminal justice, the rule of law and human rights protection. Greater emphasis must be placed on prevention by examining and addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism with the participation not only of Governments, but also of civil society, social networks, journalists, women, youth organizations and the media.

23. The European Union welcomed the report of the Secretary General (A/66/762) and its recommendations for the way forward, including appointing a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator; developing national and regional Strategy implementation plans; enhancing capacity-building efforts; promoting international cooperation; and strengthening international solidarity with victims of terrorism. It supported United Nations efforts to promote worldwide implementation of the Global Strategy.

24. The European Union commended the Secretary-General for organizing the High-level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism with a specific focus on strengthening the legal framework, held in New York on 28 September 2012, and was committed to the full implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on counter-terrorism. It actively supported the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), which were at the heart of the United Nations response to terrorism.

25. Since sanctions were an important tool in the international effort to combat terrorism, their prompt and effective implementation was of the utmost importance. The European Union welcomed the steps taken by the Security Council to further reinforce the fairness and clarity of the procedures followed by the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267

(1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. It commended the enhanced role of the Office of the Ombudsperson established by resolution 1989 (2011), looked forward to renewal of the Office's mandate and supported further enhancement thereof.

26. The European Union cooperated fully with the United Nations in all its counter-terrorism efforts, in particular through a specific political dialogue on counter-terrorism cooperation. It supported the activities of CTITF, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and had been working closely with other actors in the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), to strengthen risk management and laboratory practices for the handling of biological materials. It commended the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the technical assistance that it provided to States with a view to the implementation of United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and to strengthening the capacity of their national criminal justice systems, as well as the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for promoting national self-reliance and developing institutional capacities. The United Nations system should strengthen its internal coordination on counter-terrorism matters, including at field level.

27. The European Union was committed to preventing abuse of the financial system and welcomed the adoption by FATF of revised international standards on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. It called on Member States and United Nations entities to ensure solidarity with and assistance and compensation for the victims of terrorism and other criminal acts and for their families. The European Union and its member States were key providers of counter-terrorism capacity-building expertise and supported projects focusing on the rule of law, criminal justice and preventive measures while recognizing that there was no "one-size-fits-all" solution and that local ownership and commitment were crucial. They had established counter-terrorism strategies addressing external and internal security issues and, in cooperation with other countries and regions, had begun to develop comprehensive strategies based on national and regional approaches. In particular, they had established a dedicated strategy focusing on security and

development in the Sahel region and were working on a strategic framework for the Horn of Africa and on a specific strategy with Pakistan.

28. Convinced that its counter-terrorism cooperation with third countries was best implemented through multilateral and regional mechanisms, the European Union called on Member States to ratify and implement all the United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols if they had not yet done so. It remained engaged in negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and stood ready to consider the 2007 text without further modifications if other delegations would do likewise.

29. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that terrorism posed a serious threat to the stability of individual States, entire regions and the international community as a whole, causing physical and psychological injuries and creating a deep sense of insecurity and distress among its victims. CELAC reaffirmed its commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in strict conformity with international law, international human rights standards and international humanitarian law. All acts of terrorism must be unequivocally and firmly condemned by the international community and their perpetrators must be brought to justice, and all measures taken to combat such acts must comply with international law, in particular human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, and with the Charter of the United Nations and other international norms. Actions taken outside the international legal framework were unjustifiable, illegal and unacceptable.

30. The unilateral elaboration of blacklists that accused States of supporting and sponsoring terrorism was inconsistent with international law. He therefore welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/67/162 and Add.1) and the report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism (A/67/158). While it was essential to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including prolonged unresolved conflicts; dehumanization of victims; failure to respect the rule of law; human rights violations; ethnic, national and religious discrimination; political exclusion; socioeconomic marginalization; and bad governance, it

should also be recognized that none of those conditions could justify acts of terrorism. In order to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, Member States should improve cooperation among their financial and police intelligence bodies and United Nations entities should continue to provide any needed assistance so that they could fulfil their obligations in that regard.

31. Terrorism could only be contained effectively through enhanced international cooperation with the United Nations at its heart. CELAC welcomed the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, conducted in June 2012. It commended CTITF efforts to promote comprehensive implementation of the four pillars of the Global Strategy and stressed the importance of increasing cooperation among United Nations entities and of promoting transparency and avoiding duplication in their work. It recognized the efforts of regional and subregional organizations to implement the Global Strategy and called on them to strengthen their cooperation in that regard.

32. CELAC welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 66/105, which called on the Sixth Committee to establish a working group at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continuing to discuss the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. He urged Member States to cooperate and to show continued flexibility in negotiations on the convention so that it could be adopted during the current session of the General Assembly and a high-level conference could be convened.

33. **Mr. Salem** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that OIC condemned all acts and practices of terrorism and remained convinced that terrorism, irrespective of its motivations, objectives, forms and manifestations, committed by whomsoever and wherever, could never be justified. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group and no religion or religious doctrine should be portrayed as encouraging or inspiring acts of terrorism.

34. OIC was committed to strengthening mutual cooperation as part of a coordinated international effort to combat terrorism. In that connection, it supported a

comprehensive strategy that addressed the root causes of terrorism, including unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, festering international disputes, denial of the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination, political and economic injustices and political marginalization and alienation. A clear distinction must be made between terrorism and exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation as established in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51. The Global Strategy was an ongoing effort and a living document that should be updated and examined on a regular basis and implemented fully and in a balanced manner. Member States should work collectively to ban the payment of ransom claimed by terrorist groups, which was one of the main sources of terrorist financing and a matter of grave concern to the international community.

35. OIC remained committed to the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to its proposal on the scope of that instrument. It would make every effort to ensure that consensus was reached and that all outstanding issues — including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, and particularly the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination by people under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, and to the scope of the acts covered by the draft convention — were resolved.

36. A high-level conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations in order to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to elaborate a common definition of terrorism. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, established pursuant to a contribution agreement signed by the United Nations and the Government of Saudi Arabia, had begun its work as part of the CTITF Office in New York. The Centre supported implementation of the Global Strategy, fostered international cooperation and strengthened the capacity-building efforts of the United Nations.

37. OIC was deeply concerned at the continuing intolerance, discrimination, profiling, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, religious hatred and violence against Muslims, as well as the denigration of

their religion, their Prophet, their Holy Book and their symbols in many parts of the world; the most recent example was the release of a despicable and slanderous video entitled “Innocence of Muslims”. Such acts clearly violated international human rights norms, the principle of freedom of religion and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1624 (2005) concerning the incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance.

38. While freedom of expression was important, it should be exercised responsibly and in accordance with the relevant international human rights laws and instruments. Any advocacy of religious hatred that constituted incitement to discrimination, terrorism, hostility or violence, whether it involved the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means, should be condemned. In that connection, he welcomed all international and regional initiatives and efforts to promote dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations.

39. **Mr. Le Hoai Trung** (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that terrorism, whatever its forms and motives, was unjustifiable and that the perpetrators must be brought to justice. Given the complex nature of international terrorism, a cohesive and united approach was urgently needed in order to combat it effectively at the regional and international levels. While the international community, led by the United Nations, had made significant progress in recent years, more needed to be done, bearing in mind that all counter-terrorism measures must respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the rule of law.

40. In the past year, the ASEAN member States had continued their national and regional efforts to combat international terrorism pursuant to the Global Strategy and the relevant United Nations resolutions. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which had entered into force in 2011, had considerably strengthened the region’s legal foundation for counter-terrorism capacity-building and cooperation and its strategic role in global counter-terrorism efforts.

41. While ASEAN encouraged such collective action, it also recognized the right of individual States to take measures to eliminate the root causes of, and conditions conducive to, terrorism and stressed that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and domestic laws of

each member country should be respected and upheld. Many ASEAN members had promulgated domestic laws or adopted national plans to implement provisions of the ASEAN Convention and other international counter-terrorism instruments.

42. The 10th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, held in Viet Nam in March 2012, had identified a number of new priorities for the region, including combating human trafficking and terrorist financing, and had witnessed the launch of the South-East Asia Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. The discussion at the inaugural meeting of the Working Group, held in Semarang on 6 and 7 March 2012, had focused on the management and custody of terrorist detainees in prisons, deradicalization, law enforcement cooperation and training and judicial cooperation within the multilateral legal framework.

43. At the 7th ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue, held in Cebu from 24 to 26 July 2012, ASEAN and Japan had agreed to focus cooperation on countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism and cyberterrorism during the second phase of the Dialogue, from 2012 to 2015. The Dialogue was seen as an important framework for strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation in the ASEAN region in preparation for the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015.

44. At the 20th ASEAN Summit, held in Phnom Penh on 3 and 4 April 2012, the Association's leaders had unanimously endorsed and adopted the Malaysian initiative concerning the Global Movement of Moderates, which called on moderate voices from all religious beliefs and faiths to drown out the voices of extremism by working together to combat and marginalize extremists and thus to reclaim the centre ground. All Member States were invited to join that initiative.

45. The ASEAN nations recognized the leading role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation against terrorism and urged full implementation of the Global Strategy and its plan of action; in that connection, they welcomed the recent High-level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism. It was to be hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would soon be finalized, preferably during the current session of the General Assembly.

46. **Mr. Kydyrov** (Kyrgyzstan), speaking on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), said that the SCO countries condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Strengthening collective international cooperation mechanisms was the only means of effectively counteracting the global threat of terrorism. In that regard, those countries advocated strengthening the central coordinating role of the United Nations, which was uniquely suited for that purpose, and stressed that counter-terrorism cooperation should be conducted in accordance with the principle of respect for international law, including State sovereignty, and without double standards.

47. Full-scale implementation of the Global Strategy, the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and the international counter-terrorism conventions was the most crucial task in improving the international system for combating terrorism. The SCO countries would continue to cooperate with CTITF, the Security Council and its counter-terrorism-related committees.

48. Owing to the presence of different religions and cultures on their territories, the SCO countries were gravely concerned about the expansion of terrorist ideology. It was critical for the condemnation of terrorism to become an intrinsic part of the dialogue between religions and civilizations. Those countries actively supported all efforts to prevent terrorism, including by countering the ideology that nourished it, and attached great importance to cooperation among States, civil society, the media and the private sector in counter-terrorism efforts.

49. At its 12th summit, held in Beijing on 6 and 7 June 2012, SCO had adopted a 2013-2015 programme of action that sought to strengthen coordination in combating terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and organized crime and thus to enhance regional stability and security. The SCO countries would strive to further improve the operation of their Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure, which coordinated the work of their competent authorities, including by increasing its interaction with the relevant United Nations agencies.

50. The SCO countries considered the dangerous nexus of terrorism and organized crime, particularly the terrorism and drug trafficking emanating from Afghanistan, to be the leading destabilizing factor in Central Asia. They therefore supported the vigorous revitalization of efforts to break the ties between terrorism and organized crime in the region and called for implementation of the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and for the creation of a broad partnership of interested States and international and regional organizations. Lastly, they stressed the need for early agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

51. **Mr. Gharibi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the Movement unequivocally condemned the crime of terrorism and rejected it in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly implicated. Terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life. It should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples to achieve self-determination and national liberation, nor should it be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and any such association should not be used to justify measures such as profiling and breaches of privacy. The brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation must be denounced as the worst form of terrorism, and the use of State power to prevent peoples struggling against such occupation from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should be condemned. The Movement rejected actions, measures and the use or threat of use of force directed against its members by another State under the pretext of combating terrorism or in pursuit of political aims, including by categorizing them directly or indirectly as sponsors of terrorism.

52. States should honour their obligation under international law and international humanitarian law to combat terrorism by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators and preventing them from organizing, instigating or financing terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territory. They should refrain from organizing, instigating, abetting, financing or participating in such acts in the territory of other States; encouraging activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts; allowing their territory to be used for the planning,

training or financing of such acts; and supplying weapons or arms which could be used for that purpose. They should also refuse to provide political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism and should ensure that the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts did not abuse refugee or any other legal status. All States that had not yet done so should consider becoming parties to the international instruments on combating terrorism.

53. The Movement called on the Security Council sanctions committees to further streamline their listing and delisting procedures in order to ensure due process and transparency and reiterated its call for a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an organized response to terrorism and to identify its root causes. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized and, to that end, States should cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues.

54. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the Global Strategy. It encouraged all Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities within CTITF. It strongly condemned the practice of hostage-taking for the purpose of demanding ransom or gaining political concessions.

55. **Mr. Eden Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that because terrorism thrived in situations of uncontrolled change where the exercise of State authority had broken down or become compromised, the Committee should take up the agenda item at the current session with renewed urgency and, in particular, should ensure that terrorists were deprived of a beachhead in the Sahel and other regions. CARICOM would continue its efforts to ensure that counter-terrorism remained a high priority for the United Nations, which was the appropriate forum for coordinating the global response to that challenge.

56. CARICOM strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it occurred; all appropriate measures for its elimination must be pursued at the national and international levels. In that connection, the protracted discussions on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, a process currently hindered by the international community's inability to agree on a universally

accepted definition of terrorism, should be accelerated since such a definition was crucial to ending impunity for the perpetrators of terrorist acts and improving the international response thereto. CARICOM called for a high-level conference on international terrorism to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to harness the necessary political will to bring negotiations on the draft convention to a successful conclusion.

57. It was clear that the significant resources and efforts mobilized by the international community for the eradication of terrorism remained inadequate. CARICOM therefore called for greater coordination among all relevant agencies. It reiterated its support for the Global Strategy and welcomed the assistance of CTITF in implementing its four pillars, as well as the efforts of United Nations entities involved in counter-terrorism capacity-building in the Caribbean region.

58. All actions taken to combat terrorism must be governed by respect for the rule of law, as well as the principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. Any attempt to act outside those principles could distort the distinction between terrorism and measures taken to eradicate it. Despite resource constraints, the CARICOM member States had enacted and implemented national legislation and other measures aimed at combating terrorism, in line with their overall objective of promoting and maintaining respect for the rule of law.

59. **Mr. Al-Ahmed** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country had consistently condemned international terrorism and shown its willingness to join in international efforts to define the phenomenon in a non-selective manner and without double standards, treat its causes and eradicate it.

60. Terrorism belonged to no particular religion, society or race. While supporting the international counter-terrorism effort, Saudi Arabia would not accept that it should be a war against Islam and innocent Muslims who had nothing to do with terrorism. It was greatly concerned over attempts to link Islam to terrorism and religious or ideological extremism; in reality, that religion called for their rejection and for dialogue, forbearance and cooperation. Moreover, it was bent on ensuring that the counter-terrorism effort did not under any circumstances constitute a struggle between civilizations or religions.

61. In its condemnation, the Kingdom had stressed the importance of distinguishing between terrorism and the right of peoples to self-determination, including their struggle for sovereignty and against foreign occupation. The fact that terrorism was condemned in every form meant that it included State terrorism, such as that constantly practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a cause of instability and insecurity in the region, must be resolved.

62. Saudi Arabia, which itself had suffered from terrorist operations, strove in every way to implement the provisions of international law aimed at fighting that scourge. It had complied with the requirements of all the relevant resolutions and international committees and, in 2012, had contributed \$500,000 to support the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). It had hosted the International Conference to Combat Terrorism, held in Riyadh from 5 to 8 February 2005. On 3 June 2012, in Jeddah, it had hosted the second meeting of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, established following a proposal by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. His Government had donated \$10 million to support the Centre's work and called on all members of the international community to cooperate with it, make use of it and offer it their expertise as a model for collective endeavour.

63. **Ms. Gonzenbach** (Switzerland) reiterated her country's vigorous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and stressed that full respect for the rule of law and human rights enhanced the legitimacy of counter-terrorism measures. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 66/282 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, which underlined the importance of greater cooperation among United Nations entities to ensure coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. It continued to support the creation of a post of United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, which would enable the Organization to increase the efficiency, coherence and visibility of its work and to present a strong and unified front in combating terrorism, and looked forward to receiving further details on that proposal pursuant to paragraph 15 of the aforementioned resolution.

64. It was regrettable that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism had not yet been

finalized as its adoption would strengthen the role of the General Assembly as a body with universal legitimacy and with the necessary authority to set standards, including in the area of counter-terrorism. Her delegation stood ready to work towards that objective.

65. **Ms. Niang** (Senegal), recalling that terrorism remained one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, said that the four pillars of the 2006 Global Strategy, which was still the most comprehensive framework for an effective response to terrorism, should be implemented in a balanced manner. More dynamic and inclusive cooperation with a view to broader sharing of information and experience, as well as greater coordination of counter-terrorism efforts, was needed in order to translate the commitments made under the Global Strategy into action. She therefore hoped that the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the creation of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator would soon be implemented; improved coordination would streamline the Organization's efforts to counter terrorism and enhance their effectiveness and visibility.

66. Despite the tireless efforts of the international community, terrorism continued to destroy innocent lives. The current situation in the Sahel region, and especially in northern Mali, showed that battle against extremism and terrorism was far from over. Counter-terrorism initiatives at the national, regional and global levels should therefore be better coordinated. There was also a need for closer coordination in promoting dialogue among civilizations, combating prejudices and enhancing intercultural and interfaith understanding in order to dispel the misunderstandings and stereotypes that could foster hatred, intolerance and violence, and thus to eradicate the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. While reiterating its total condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, her delegation strongly condemned any attempt to associate it with a given religion, culture, race or ethnicity.

67. Senegal was a party to 13 of the international counter-terrorism instruments and she urged other Member States to sign and ratify them. Since adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would further strengthen the international legal counter-terrorism framework, delegations should make every effort to quickly reach agreement on the

outstanding issues. In that connection, she welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism in order to conduct negotiations on the draft convention at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Lastly, she reaffirmed her Government's commitment to ensuring that all measures taken to combat terrorism complied with international law and, in particular, international human rights law.

68. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that his delegation strongly condemned all acts of terrorism and was committed to contributing fully to the international counter-terrorism effort, including through cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies. His Government had ratified all 13 of the international counter-terrorism instruments, had submitted seven reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the "Counter-Terrorism Committee") and continued to support the work of the other relevant Security Council committees. As a member of the informal group of like-minded countries, Liechtenstein would continue to promote the effectiveness and legitimacy of counter-terrorism-related sanctions regimes. In that regard, the crucial role of the Ombudsperson, whose independent advice had led to significant improvements of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, should be highlighted. His delegation called on the Security Council to further develop fair and clear procedures and apply them to other sanctions regimes, as appropriate.

69. In the increasingly crowded field of counter-terrorism, the Sixth Committee could provide the greatest added value by finalizing negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The issue was primarily one of political will and timing rather than further drafting and negotiation since any attempt to make major substantive changes in the draft would only lead to greater divergence of positions. With an overwhelming majority of delegations clearly in a position to support the compromise proposal put forward by the Coordinator of the draft comprehensive convention, Ms. Maria Telalian of Greece, Member States should conclude the negotiations without further delay.

70. In order to avoid duplication and improve the quality of the Committee's work, his delegation reiterated its proposal that the current agenda item should be considered on a biennial basis, alternating

with the General Assembly's biennial review of the Global Strategy. The timing of that review could, if deemed appropriate, be changed in order to coincide with the main part of the annual session of the Assembly in order to benefit from the presence of experts from capitals who travelled to New York at that time in order to participate in the Committee's work.

71. **Mr. Al Jassmi** (United Arab Emirates) said that despite its intensive efforts, the international community continued to witness increasing and ever-graver forms of terrorism and organized crime. The terrorist events of recent years, including the organized State terrorism constantly practised in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and Syria, all had the same type of motive, which did not relate to any particular nationality, culture, religion or geographical region, but rather to hatred, fanatical thinking and irresponsible extremism. His delegation condemned the recent attack on the United States embassy in Libya and all such terrorist attacks committed in response to the denigration of religions. It called on the international community to strengthen further the means of combating all forms of terrorism in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Global Strategy. At the same time, it called on all States to shoulder the responsibility for preventing acts of provocation against religious and cultural symbols that linked terrorist acts to Islam, to encourage political efforts to defuse existing conflicts and to promote a rapprochement of religions and cultures and a culture of tolerance, peace and respect for human rights.

72. His delegation hoped that the Committee's debate under the current agenda item would lead to tangible results and that States would show flexibility in resolving the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism with a view to its earliest possible adoption and implementation. It reiterated its call for a United-Nations-sponsored international conference in order to arrive at a clear definition of terrorism that distinguished it from the right of peoples to self-determination under the Charter and international law, to define the root causes of the spread of terrorism and to find ways of addressing them. In that connection, it was necessary to provide increased technical assistance to developing countries in order to build their counter-terrorism capacities and to develop enhanced

international plans for supporting the victims of terrorism.

73. The United Arab Emirates had continued to develop and finance its counter-terrorism policies, measures and legislation in areas such as education, poverty alleviation and intercultural dialogue. It had reassessed and developed its laws and procedures relating to money-laundering and the prosecution of cross-border crime, including drug and small-arms smuggling, with a view to coordinating with international and regional mechanisms. It had strengthened its port and border control procedures to prevent the transfer of sensitive materials and, in particular, nuclear proliferation and had enhanced cooperation with its regional and international partners in military matters and in monitoring suspicious banking and investment transactions. It had concluded partnerships and cooperation agreements on the exchange of information and expertise with various countries and had acceded to all the international and regional counter-terrorism instruments. In cooperation with numerous active parties, it had announced the establishment of the Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism, which was to begin operations in Abu Dhabi at the end of 2012.

74. **Mr. Cabactulan** (Philippines) said that, regrettably, his country's report on its implementation of the Global Strategy and plan of action, submitted to CTITF on 4 April 2012, had not been summarized in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/67/162 and Add.1), issued on 19 July 2012.

75. Intercultural and interfaith dialogue was one of the most important counter-terrorism measures. Respect for human dignity and understanding and tolerance between and among peoples were of crucial importance, as shown by the recent events in Libya involving the death of a United States diplomat and the defamation of Islam.

76. His delegation affirmed the role of the United Nations in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems. His Government contributed to global efforts to prevent the financing of terrorism through money-laundering in cooperation with its international partners, including FATF, and within the framework of its landmark law on terrorism, the Human Security Act.

It had also enacted new laws on the prevention of money-laundering and terrorist financing, which required banks and financial institutions to report transactions involving funds with possible links to terrorists.

77. The exchange of information and best practices, especially among security and law enforcement agencies, should be continuously enhanced in order to counter terrorism. His delegation was grateful to UNODC, CTITF and CTED for their exchange of such information and for their long-standing support for the workshops and training courses conducted by the Philippine Anti-Terrorism Council Programme Management Centre. Those highly-focused counter-terrorism training programmes were evidence-based and intelligence-led with an emphasis on joint training for law enforcement, security and prosecution authorities. In implementation of its Counter-Terrorism Training Initiative on Capacity Building for Collaborative Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorism-Related Cases, the country had hosted a National Experts Workshop on Designing Training for Collaborative Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorism-Related Cases, held in Manila from 21 to 23 Marcy 2012.

78. The international community should build on what had been achieved at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to ensure that nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction never fell into the hands of terrorists. The action plan adopted at that Conference enhanced international cooperation towards that goal.

79. **Mr. Nikolaichik** (Belarus) said that his country was a party to key counter-terrorism instruments developed under the aegis of the United Nations and possessed a legal framework that enabled it to respond effectively to the modern challenges posed by terrorism. His Government supported continued effective counter-terrorism cooperation within the framework of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and CTED, IAEA, UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and was actively involved in regional counter-terrorism efforts in the context of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). His delegation welcomed the outcome

of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review and the High-level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism and believed that States parties needed to further endeavour to meet their obligations under the relevant international instruments and General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

80. The counter-terrorism-related legal framework could not be strengthened without the creation of an effective, non-selective system that provided timely technical assistance on all aspects of counter-terrorism, including information-sharing, training, border security and prevention of the financing of terrorism.

81. Counter-terrorism efforts needed to respond quickly to new challenges and threats. It was therefore necessary to unify efforts to improve prevention measures and to revitalize knowledge-sharing with respect to transportation security; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism; and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. The success of such efforts depended on greater bilateral, subregional, regional and global counter-terrorism cooperation that was comprehensive, non-selective and free of double standards.

82. His delegation hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be rapidly finalized by consensus and called on all participants to show the utmost flexibility in the course of the negotiations.

83. **Mr. Sengsourinha** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his Government had always condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and was committed to international cooperation in combating it. Among other measures, it was reviewing its criminal legislation with a view to incorporating the international counter-terrorism conventions into domestic law, had adopted an anti-money-laundering decree and was considering a draft decree on combating terrorist financing. It had implemented a number of border crossing measures and had organized workshops to disseminate information on counter-terrorism conventions. As a party to 13 of the international conventions on terrorism and transnational organized crime, it attached particular importance to the fulfilment of its treaty obligations under counter-terrorism conventions and had submitted two reports on its implementation of

Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

84. At the regional level, his Government, together with those of other ASEAN States, had adopted a number of declarations, programmes and conventions on combating terrorism and was in the process of ratifying the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. It was also a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, with which it worked closely, and had signed bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal matters, extradition and the transfer of convicted persons with various countries.

85. **Mr. Mwamba Tshibangu** (Democratic Republic of the Congo), reiterating his delegation's strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, said that in North Kivu, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, hundreds of thousands of children, women and men were being deprived of peace and subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), a terrorist movement created, armed, funded and supported militarily by a neighbouring country, Rwanda. Children were being taken out of school and forced to use firearms to kill other human beings, sometimes even their own siblings. That situation was unacceptable and should give rise to sanctions.

86. Counter-terrorism activities should not come at the expense of human rights, nor did they provide any justification for ethnic and religious discrimination, political exclusion or socioeconomic marginalization. Freedom of religious belief was enshrined in his country's Constitution, allowing for the peaceful coexistence of different confessional groups. Insofar as it was crucial to fostering security and prosperity, the rule of law stood in opposition to terrorist practices. Counter-terrorism instruments must therefore be incorporated into domestic law and the courts must be competent to prosecute the perpetrators of terrorist acts and must cooperate with other States and with international and regional organizations for that purpose. The provision of support to ensure that the right of defence was fully respected, without discrimination, was also essential.

86. His delegation welcomed the measures taken at the international level to prevent and suppress terrorism, particularly the efforts of such institutions as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank and INTERPOL. His Government was actively engaged in counter-terrorism activities at the regional and subregional levels, notably within the framework of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. It also worked in collaboration with the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and was committed to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) counter-terrorism initiatives, which included the establishment of an Early Warning Centre for monitoring the terrorist threat in the region. It also supported the African Union's condemnation of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups. The development and adoption of a model counter-terrorism law by the African Union Commission constituted a huge step forward that should receive the support of all Member States.

87. Lastly, delegations should continue their efforts to finalize negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism since its adoption would supplement the existing sectoral conventions and thus strengthen the legal counter-terrorism framework.

88. **Ms. Saban** (United States of America) reiterated her delegation's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and commitment to the common effort to end it. All terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. Her delegation firmly supported the central role of the United Nations in coordinating efforts to combat terrorism and bolster the ability of States to prevent terrorist acts, as well as the efforts of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies aimed at developing practical tools to further implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism framework. It endorsed the proposal to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator in order to bring greater strategic coherence to the Organization's counter-terrorism efforts.

89. She welcomed the recent review of the Global Strategy and recognition of the role that victims of terrorism could play, including in countering the appeal of terrorism. It was vital to promote the voices of victims and build Member States' capacity to develop and implement programmes that provided them with

assistance and support. Her delegation strongly welcomed the Organization's efforts to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in the context of counter-terrorism efforts and had made voluntary contributions to CTITF in support of assistance and training initiatives.

90. The legal framework for combating terrorism was largely the product of the work of the Sixth Committee in elaborating 18 international instruments, the number of States parties to which was rising dramatically. Six further counter-terrorism instruments had also been developed to cover new and emerging threats involving civil aviation, maritime navigation and the protection of nuclear material. Only when they were widely ratified and fully implemented, however, would the work of the international community in that area be complete. Her Government was advancing in its own efforts to ratify those instruments and she urged other States that had not yet done so to follow suit.

91. Despite the best efforts of the Coordinator and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, negotiations on the current proposals concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism were still at an impasse. Her delegation remained willing to work with other States to build on and enhance the international counter-terrorism framework and would listen carefully to the statements of other delegations as the Sixth Committee continued to deliberate on those challenging issues.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.