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Chair: Mr. Mlynár (Slovakia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/74/151)

1. **Mr. Ke** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN supported global action against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Recent attacks throughout the world had demonstrated the increasingly elaborate, deadly and widespread nature of the terrorist threat. ASEAN therefore supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as it provided a comprehensive, strategic approach to countering terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. The seventh review of that Strategy presented a critical opportunity to ensure its continued relevance in the light of evolving trends and emerging threats.

2. States must ensure that they respected fundamental freedoms while implementing counter-terrorism measures, including the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The fight against terrorism must therefore be waged in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian and human rights law, and the principles of independence and sovereign equality of States. Furthermore, terrorism must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or ethnicity.

3. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism provided a framework for regional cooperation and coordination to prevent and suppress terrorism, for enhancing the region's strategic role in the global fight against terrorism, and for building a safer and more secure world for all. Cooperation among ASEAN members had been strengthened with the establishment of systems enabling law enforcement personnel to respond effectively to potential crisis situations. In particular, the ASEAN Communication and Coordination Protocol for Crisis Management enabled ASEAN members to share intelligence expeditiously and assist one another in the event of large-scale attacks.

4. ASEAN encouraged all States to enhance their information-sharing methods, which would allow for the exchange of best practices and the provision of technical and capacity-building assistance. The delegations of the States members of ASEAN stood ready to work with other delegations to refine and improve the global counter-terrorism architecture. In that connection, the deliberations on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism must continue, with a view to achieving a consensus.

5. **Ms. Gauci** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries

Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union was committed to multilateral cooperation to combat terrorism in compliance with the rule of law and international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. The European Union condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and believed that those responsible for terrorist acts must be held accountable.

6. European Union efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism were guided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. To address both international and domestic threats, the States members of the European Union were taking multi-agency approaches to countering radicalization; preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online; and promoting credible counter-terrorist narratives. They were also strengthening law enforcement, judicial cooperation, information exchange and laws on combating money-laundering and terrorism financing. Experiences in addressing the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters must be shared in order to bring such persons to justice, and further efforts must be made to prevent and combat radicalization in prisons and to improve social integration. At the international level, the European Union was working with countries in the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Western Balkans, and Central, South and South-East Asia to help build capacities, encourage mutual learning and find areas for cooperation. It had also included counter-terrorism and security experts in its delegations to support those efforts.

7. Counter-terrorism measures must not impede the provision of humanitarian assistance, in particular in high-risk situations. Such measures must also be in accordance with international humanitarian law, and exemptions or protections should be introduced, where possible, to mitigate any negative impact they might have on humanitarian action.

8. The European Union supported efforts to strengthen the resilience of and provide comprehensive assistance to the victims of terrorism. It therefore welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [73/305](#), on enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism, and was committed to the successful outcome of the first-ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, to be held in 2020. The European Union supported a whole-of-society approach to

countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and, in that connection, called for strengthened collaboration and cooperation among Governments, the private sector and civil society. By embracing human rights and the rule of law and working to eliminate corruption, Governments could create an enabling environment for local and national authorities and civil society to counter violent extremism together. The activities of non-profit organizations, including those focusing on gender, women's rights and the protection of children, must not be unduly restricted.

9. The European Union was encouraged by the "all-of-United-Nations" approach to countering terrorism and would continue to support a strong and efficient United Nations that drove global action to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism through a balanced approach to the four pillars of its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

10. In view of its commitment to international cooperation on countering terrorism, the European Union would work closely with the United Nations to address the priority areas identified in the Framework on Counter-Terrorism between the United Nations and the European Union. It also supported stronger cooperation between the United Nations and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. The European Union fully supported the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#) [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and remained committed to strengthening due process and ensuring clear and fair procedures under all sanctions regimes. Member States should ratify and implement all United Nations legal instruments on counter-terrorism, and make every effort to conclude the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

11. It was a matter of concern to that the resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism that was regularly considered by the Sixth Committee overlapped, to a certain extent, with the negotiations taking place in the General Assembly in plenary towards a resolution to review the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The European Union was committed to ensuring the success of the seventh review of that Strategy.

12. **Ms. Boucher** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the three Member States firmly condemned terrorist acts, wherever and in whatever form they were committed. The attack on the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand, in

March 2019 and the bombing of churches in Sri Lanka in April 2019 illustrated the devastating impact of such acts on victims, communities and societies. Australia, Canada and New Zealand fully supported the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Joint action by the international community, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, relevant Security Council resolutions and the principles and rules of international law, was required to credibly respond to the global terrorist threat. Through concerted efforts, significant progress had been made in preventing and suppressing terrorism. To build on that progress, Member States should ratify and implement all international counter-terrorism instruments.

13. Collaboration among Governments, online service providers, civil society and non-governmental organizations was essential to addressing the misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes. In that regard, Australia, Canada and New Zealand had joined other countries, companies and online service providers in adopting the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. In cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the three countries were supporting a project to encourage online platforms to prevent and remove such content by establishing benchmark reporting practices, metrics to measure progress, and a common voluntary reporting protocol. To achieve sustainable results, States would need to find more effective ways to combat the spread of hateful online messages, while ensuring respect for human rights, the rule of law, and the principles of democracy, inclusion and diversity.

14. Member States should fully implement Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#), as cooperation on border protection, information-sharing and threat detection effectively prevented travel by foreign terrorist fighters to conflict zones. Denying terrorist groups access to human and financial resources was also critical to the success of counter-terrorism measures, particularly given the increasing use of emerging technologies, such as blockchain, by such groups to prevent the detection of illicit movements of funds. In November 2019, Australia would be hosting the second "No Money for Terror" conference, which would focus on the exploitation of such technologies to finance terrorism.

15. Australia, Canada and New Zealand encouraged other States to implement all international counter-terrorism instruments and relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular, resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#) and subsequent resolutions, which would help

them to effectively investigate and prosecute all terrorist acts. Although collective action had resulted in the loss by ISIL of its territory in Iraq and Syria, that group remained a threat in the region, and its expanding influence in Afghanistan, sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia was a matter of concern. Al-Qaida also remained a threat.

16. The phenomenon of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families posed a number of challenges. Coordinated action by Governments and civil society was required to identify enduring solutions for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of returnees not subject to arrest and prosecution. The framers of such solutions should take into account age, gender and the impact of trauma, including as a result of witnessing or experiencing violence, a risk to which children were frequently exposed in conflict zones. Women's organizations also had a key role to play in prevention, early warning and responses to international terrorism, and building of resilience in local communities.

17. The international community had a responsibility to assist victims of terrorism. Australia, Canada and New Zealand supported the newly established Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, which advanced the rights and needs of victims, including by enhancing their visibility at the international level and promoting their role in countering terrorist and violent-extremist ideologies. Member States had a collective obligation to bring terrorists to justice. In that connection, Governments, civil society and the private sector should share best practices and lessons learned in the areas of prosecution and corrections, and with regard to the monitoring, rehabilitation and reintegration of those not subject to prosecution. Australia, Canada and New Zealand strongly supported the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which would be co-chaired by Canada and Morocco from 2019 to 2021.

18. **Ms. Juul** (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that, despite the fall of its so-called caliphate, ISIL and other terrorist networks such as Al-Qaida continued to operate. As evidenced by the attacks carried out in recent years in New Zealand, Norway and other Member States, terrorism transcended borders and specific ideologies. Combating all forms of violent extremism, including violent right-wing extremism, was critical, as they undermined peace, security, human rights and the rule of law.

19. The global threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism required a global response. An agreed international definition of terrorism would enhance the international community's ability to combat terrorism

while upholding international law, and would facilitate stronger international cooperation on counter-terrorism. The Nordic countries therefore supported the work towards the development of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

20. The Nordic countries were members of the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, which sought to raise awareness of the conditions that fuelled the spread of violent extremism and promote the institutionalization of the prevention of violent extremism across the United Nations system, and had contributed to the enhanced attention given by the Organization to issues such as the role of women in terrorist and violent-extremist activities. The Nordic countries appreciated the fact that the prevention of violent extremism had become an integral part of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts and welcomed the increased coordination with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, as well as the enhanced focus on making effective use of field-based United Nations resources in order to deliver responses adapted to local contexts.

21. A whole-of-society approach needed to be taken to preventing terrorism and violent extremism. In particular, the multifaceted roles of women in the area of terrorism must be understood. The Nordic countries had contributed to a number of research projects in that area, including the 2019 global study by the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Invisible Women: Gendered Dimensions of Return, Reintegration and Rehabilitation", which had demonstrated that, while women participated in the work of terrorist organizations as campaigners, recruiters, financiers and perpetrators of terrorist acts, they also had a vital role to play in countering violent extremism. Efforts by local community leaders, school teachers, youth representatives and municipal workers were also critical to combating terrorism, and non-profit organizations, such as the Strong Cities Network, Nordic Safe Cities and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, were essential to supporting local counter-terrorism initiatives. In addition, young people should be viewed not only as potential targets of radicalization, but also as indispensable partners in countering that threat. To that end, they should be provided with the necessary educational and professional opportunities for the building of a better world.

22. The Nordic countries supported the insistence by the Security Council that all counter-terrorism measures should be in accordance with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. To be effective, such measures must also be underpinned by

respect for human rights, the participation of civil society and integration of gender perspectives. The Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#) [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities played an important role in ensuring clear and fair procedures under United Nations sanctions regimes and in ensuring that human rights guarantees were respected. Such procedures were critical to strengthening the effectiveness and legitimacy of counter-terrorism efforts under those regimes. The Office should therefore be provided with the necessary capacity to fulfil its mandate in an independent, effective and timely manner.

23. **Ms. Weiss Ma'udi** (Israel) said that her Government was fully committed to eliminating international terrorism. In 2019, heinous acts of terrorism had been committed worldwide, fuelled by the spread of hateful messages on online platforms. Certain Governments were also funding and supporting terrorist groups, in particular in the Middle East. Such groups used innocent civilians as human shields to hide their activities and protect themselves, in stark violation of international law and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in which Member States had strongly condemned the use of civilians to shield military objectives from attacks.

24. Israel supported some of the political and legal decisions adopted by the United Nations in 2019 to address international terrorism and was ready to both implement the relevant components thereof and share its experiences in that regard. In particular, it strongly supported Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), in which Member States were called upon to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to refrain from providing any form of support to terrorists. In 2016, Israel had adopted an innovative and comprehensive counter-terrorism law targeting the structures that facilitated the provision of material and other types of support to terrorists. In its 2018 mutual evaluation report, the Financial Action Task Force had awarded Israel the highest possible ratings in the areas of combating terrorism financing and the effective use of financial intelligence. The Task Force had also praised the country's strong institutional framework for combating terrorism financing, its inter-agency coordination and its implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. Israel also supported Security Council resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#), which focused on the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, a connection illustrated by the operations of terrorist groups in the Middle East. Global responses were

essential to addressing that nexus. For its part, Israel was committed to securing its borders and combating corruption, money-laundering, drug trafficking and terrorism financing at the national level.

25. The Israel Federation of Local Authorities, a non-governmental organization representing local governments in the country, had collaborated with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in sponsoring the 2019 Muni World international conference, which had focused on the sharing of good practices and Israeli expertise as to how Governments, local authorities, cities and the private sector could work together to share information on soft targets in order to identify threats, risks and mitigation measures, as well as to develop enhanced investigation, response and recovery mechanisms. In addition, the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism had conducted a successful visit to Israel in June 2019, and his Office had provided support for the organization of a counter-terrorism workshop for Eurasian States recently held in Israel.

26. Israel welcomed the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular the planned focus on support to victims of terrorism. As a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and a nation that had been profoundly affected by terrorist attacks since its establishment, Israel planned to share the insights that it had gained in promoting resilience and trauma recovery. Her Government also recognized the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would enshrine a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and would not admit any justification for any form or manifestation of terrorism.

27. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that the United Nations must assume its historic role as the main body responsible for ensuring international peace and security. Nicaragua strongly supported multilateralism and the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and political negotiations, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

28. Member States must work in a spirit of flexibility to develop a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The increase in terrorist attacks against peoples and Governments was a matter of great concern. Nicaragua condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, and had profound sympathy for victims, their families and their Governments. Nicaragua also remained firmly committed to the comprehensive implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

and would therefore participate actively in the seventh review of the Strategy. In addition, Nicaragua welcomed the second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the first-ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, both to be held in 2020.

29. Nicaragua had launched a national plan aimed at strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and information exchange in order to combat terrorism and related crimes. It was also improving its legal and institutional frameworks for combating terrorism and related crimes. In that regard, in July 2018, Nicaragua had adopted a law on countering money-laundering, terrorism financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with international agreements and treaties. Known as one of the countries with the highest levels of stability, peace and security in its region, Nicaragua continued to develop policies aimed at eliminating international organized crime, gang activity, terrorism and drug-related crime. It remained firmly committed to peace, security and the comprehensive protection of human rights.

30. **Mr. Lasri** (Morocco) said that the United Nations played a vital role in combating international terrorism and provided essential support to Member States for the implementation of the its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The momentum gained by terrorist movements such as Al-Qaida and ISIL over the previous two decades represented a regrettable turning point in human history and undermined the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. In 2019, there had been a resurgence of threats against the objectives set out in the Statement of Principles of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Morocco condemned terrorism in all its forms and called for stronger international cooperation on counter-terrorism.

31. Morocco had been a co-Chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum for two terms, and had recently been re-elected for a third term. Under the auspices of that Forum, Morocco and the United States had launched the Initiative to Address Homegrown Terrorism, which had resulted in the development of a document outlining good practices for improving coordination among government agencies and national and local stakeholders in combating homegrown terrorism. In 2018, under the auspices of the working group on foreign terrorist fighters established under the Forum, they had launched the Initiative on Improving Capabilities for Detecting and Interdicting Terrorist Travel through Enhanced Terrorist Screening and Information Sharing, designed to build countries' capacities to develop watch lists and share information

in order to detect threats. As a result of that initiative, a document outlining good practices in that area had been developed in 2019.

32. Morocco was a strong proponent of regional cooperation, particularly in the areas of border security, information exchange and compliance with international conventions and agreements. To that end, it participated actively in the 5+5 Dialogue, a security initiative among five States members of the European Union and five African countries from the Maghreb region, and in the G4 cooperation mechanism, through which it collaborated with France, Portugal and Spain in investigating terrorist offences. In 2018, with its counterparts in Belgium, France and Spain, the Office of the Prosecutor-General of Morocco had signed a quadripartite agreement on judicial cooperation in countering terrorism. To effectively combat terrorism, security measures must be complemented by initiatives to promote social and economic inclusion and appropriate religious and civic education.

33. Morocco was a prime target of terrorist groups, owing to the unstable security environment in the Maghreb region and its activities in the Sahel region. To counter that threat, it had adopted a law amending and supplementing provisions of its Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure relating to counter-terrorism; established a programme to monitor potential jihadist fighters; and developed strategic alliances with France, Belgium, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the United States in which security diplomacy played a vital role. Morocco had also carried out a number of initiatives to address the underlying social and economic causes of youth radicalization. Specifically, it had developed a national initiative for human development, aimed at advancing the social integration of former detainees, eliminating slums in cities throughout the country, providing training for imams and promoting a moderate version of Islam. Morocco also had a national migration strategy based on acceptance of outsiders; it played a key role in international counter-terrorism coalitions and had been elected in 2018 as a member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for a two-year term.

34. **Mr. Tang** (Singapore) said that, as no country was immune to the threat of terrorism, counter-terrorism efforts at the national, regional and international levels must be enhanced. In 2018, Singapore had enacted a law on the protection of critical infrastructure and buildings considered as potential targets of terrorist attacks. That law provided for the implementation of enhanced security measures during the design phase of large-scale construction projects, and for the introduction of additional measures, such as bag or vehicle checks,

under heightened security conditions. With a view to fostering regional cooperation on counter-terrorism, Singapore had hosted the 2018 South-East Asia Counter-Terrorism Symposium and also actively participated in forums and projects organized under the auspices of ASEAN.

35. Singapore supported a strong, sustained and coordinated global response to terrorism. It was a party to 14 universal counter-terrorism agreements and, in October 2018, had signed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism. In November 2018, it had launched the inaugural Police Specialist Conference, which had brought together law enforcement agencies from different parts of the world to exchange views and information on policing issues and enhancing international cooperation. Singapore strongly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the role of the General Assembly in its implementation and updating. It therefore looked forward to the seventh review of the Strategy.

36. Recalling that, at its seventy-third session, the General Assembly had recommended that the Committee, at the seventy-fourth session, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, his delegation looked forward to working closely with the Chair and members of that working group in order to reach a consensus on the draft convention.

37. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that, in order to provide a legal framework for international counter-terrorism efforts, it was essential to make progress towards elaborating a draft comprehensive convention on terrorism, including a definition of terrorism. Convening a high-level international conference on terrorism would help to resolve outstanding differences in that regard.

38. Combating contemporary forms of terrorism, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, would require a comprehensive approach. National institutions and law enforcement agencies should be supported. All terrorist organizations without exception should be confronted, and States that gave them safe haven should be held accountable. Terrorist and extremist discourse should also be tackled, and action should be taken to foster socioeconomic development and alleviate poverty.

39. As a founding member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Egypt was committed to respecting the human rights of victims and providing them with appropriate care. Cognizant of the need to address the issue of non-governmental organizations

and charities that acted as a front for terrorism, his Government had cooperated with the Office of Counter-Terrorism to organize a high-level side-event on combating the financing of terrorism, held in New York on 26 September 2019, on the margins of a meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Over the previous four years, his Government had spearheaded a project to counter terrorist narratives in cooperation with Al-Azhar University, the Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism and Dar al-Ifta. His delegation had focused on that issue during its term on the Security Council and was working with the Office of Counter-Terrorism to host a high-level meeting on comprehensive approaches to confronting extremist ideology conducive to terrorism, to be held in early 2020.

40. Primary responsibility for implementing such approaches lay with State institutions, although they could be aided by civil society organizations if domestic laws so allowed. Egyptian law enforcement forces and national authorities were working on a daily basis to combat terrorist and extremist organizations, and were cooperating with the United Nations for that purpose.

41. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that possible ways to enhance international cooperation to counter global terrorism threats included focusing on capacity-building assistance, addressing the growing nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime and ensuring youth engagement. In 2018 and 2019 his Government, in collaboration with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, had held capacity-building workshops in Ulaanbaatar to enhance the counter-terrorism capacities of Mongolian law enforcement agencies. His Government had also submitted a request for assistance under the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

42. In cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, his Government had organized a high-level interregional conference entitled “‘Whole-of-Society Approach’ to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism”, which had been held in Ulaanbaatar in June 2019. The conference had addressed ways to enhance cooperation among regional and subregional stakeholders. Mongolia had entered into bilateral agreements with China, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation on cooperation in efforts to counter terrorism, and had signed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism and the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist online content.

43. States must adapt their counter-terrorism efforts to take into account the use of digital technology, including encrypted communication and social media, by terrorists, and diversify their actions, share best practices and build the capacities of their law enforcement agencies to detect and prevent terrorist acts effectively.

44. **Ms. Alnaser** (Kuwait) said that her country rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Governments must cooperate in the international counter-terrorism effort and aim to establish measures that promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights; address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty; support good governance, sustainable development and coexistence among religions; ensure respect for religious symbols and holy sites; and prevent incitement to hatred, extremism and violence.

45. A series of acts of terrorism and sabotage had taken place over the previous year, particularly in the Arabian Gulf, endangering the freedom of navigation and the flow of energy supplies. The perpetrators of the attacks taking place in occupied Palestine and in Syria, Yemen and Libya were terrorizing innocent civilians and blatantly violating international instruments and human rights. Over the previous years, the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had taken Islam as a pretext for terrorist activities. The international community should confront the threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and address its root causes and sources of funding.

46. Over the previous year, her delegation had sponsored General Assembly resolution [73/285](#) in which the Assembly condemned the terrorist attacks that had taken place in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 15 March 2019. It had participated effectively in the work of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. As a member of the Security Council, Kuwait had supported the adoption of Security Council resolutions [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

47. At the domestic level, her Government had organized several workshops on combating the financing of terrorism, the role of society in rehabilitating foreign fighters, raising awareness among

young people, and the role of the family in confronting violence and extremism.

48. **Mr. García Moritán** (Argentina) said that an integrated and cooperative approach was needed to combat terrorism, which undermined democracy, freedom and the values and principles of States. Argentina was firmly committed to countering terrorism in all its forms and would thus continue to combat impunity for terrorist attacks.

49. States must act in compliance with international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations when countering terrorism. As part of its efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner, Argentina had strengthened its laws to ensure that victims of terrorism and related crimes enjoyed rights and guarantees such as counselling, assistance, legal representation, protection and access to justice. The specific rights and needs of women and children affected by terrorism must also be taken into account, including by incorporating into all national and international responses a gender perspective focused on ensuring access to comprehensive and high-quality education and health services. With the support of other countries and international organizations, Argentina had improved information exchange and measures aimed at preventing terrorism financing, including by establishing a registry to expedite the freezing of assets suspected of being linked to terrorists.

50. Argentina supported initiatives to advance training and the exchange of information and best practices in the context of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States. In 2019, Argentina had convened the Second Hemispheric Ministerial Conference on the Fight against Terrorism, where the participating Governments had, among other measures, reiterated their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, emphasizing that it constituted a threat to the peace and security of countries and the international community as a whole, and to human rights, democratic stability, and economic and social development. They had also agreed to establish, within the framework of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, an around-the-clock network of national security focal points for counter-terrorism, to facilitate the timely exchange of early warnings through secure platforms. Lastly, they had underscored the need to implement relevant Security Council resolutions and to ratify and implement regional and international counter-terrorism instruments.

51. Argentina had ratified 14 universal counter-terrorism instruments and was in the process of ratifying the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft. It was also a party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. The Government had introduced a bill to reform the Argentine Criminal Code in line with the country's international obligations. The bill provided for the incorporation of new terrorist offences, including unlawful terrorist association and the crimes of harbouring, recruiting, indoctrinating or training terrorists. It also provided for the doubling of all sentences for crimes committed for terrorist purposes, with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. In addition, the bill criminalized the financing of terrorism or of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which incurred a penalty of up to 15 years' imprisonment.

52. South-South and triangular cooperation should also be harnessed more frequently to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts, as many countries of the global South had implemented innovative measures in that area.

53. **Mr. Korbieh** (Ghana) said that concerted national and international measures would be needed to combat terrorism, which undermined social cohesion and sustainable development. The adoption of a range of measures and laws by States and intergovernmental organizations was a positive step, but it remained to be seen whether they would be adequate to effectively combat the shifts in the modus operandi of terrorist groups. The laudable initiatives being implemented under the auspices of the United Nations should be supported by strengthened regional and international cooperation, timely information-sharing and measures to enhance border security.

54. Special measures, including the establishment of shared databases and blacklists, should be taken to address the financing of terrorism, the falsification of identity and travel documents and the issue of foreign terrorist fighters. Appropriate steps must also be taken to provide support to victims. The practical activities undertaken by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, including the conduct of operations to locate persons on wanted lists; the interrogation of foreign terrorist fighters who had returned from conflict zones; the destruction of laboratories and infrastructure for the production of terrorist or extremist propaganda materials; and the detection of illegal trade in arms, ammunition and explosives, as well as chemical, bioactive and radioactive substances, were welcome and should be supported.

55. The growing incidence of terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel threatened the security and stability of countries in the region. His Government remained committed to combating that threat and eliminating ancillary criminal practices. It had continued to make progress in countering money-laundering and other transnational organized crimes by adopting or amending its relevant laws and policies and enhancing its institutional structure. However, it would require capacity-building support from partners in order to effectively implement its counter-terrorism initiatives. Ghana welcomed the convening of the Global Maritime Security Conference, to be held in Abuja in October 2019, which it hoped would serve as a common platform for stakeholders involved in combating piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

56. **Mr. Dixon** (United Kingdom) said that while ISIL had lost territory, it was transforming into a covert network and the reach of its ideas and networks had not diminished. Meanwhile, terrorists motivated by extreme right-wing ideologies had provided further proof that terrorism was not associated with any particular identity, religion or nationality. The United Kingdom welcomed the focus on the protection of principled humanitarian action in Security Council resolutions [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#). It would continue to work with its partners to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were implemented in accordance with international humanitarian law and in a manner that complied with the counter-terrorism framework of the Security Council, and that meaningful protection was provided to impartial humanitarian actors.

57. His Government had invited the Counter-Terrorism Committee to conduct its second assessment visit to the United Kingdom in October 2019, in the hope of being able to share its lessons learned, good practices, experiences and research on emerging trends and dynamics. The United Kingdom welcomed opportunities to learn from and work with other States to improve responses to the terrorist threat. It encouraged other States to make use of the opportunity provided by Counter-Terrorism Committee visits to identify national counter-terrorism priorities and needs and share the measures they had taken to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

58. With regard to terrorist activities online, his Government supported the Christchurch Call and had announced increased funding for research and activities to address terrorist content on the Internet. The United Kingdom had also worked with partners in the Global Counterterrorism Forum to develop the Policy Toolkit on the Zurich-London Recommendations on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism

Online, which was designed to support Governments and other stakeholders in efforts to prevent the exploitation of the Internet by terrorists. Respect for human rights and the integration of gender considerations were also vital for credible, effective and sustainable measures to combat and prevent terrorism. In that regard, it was essential to incorporate a gender lens into the consideration of threats and challenges and to recognize the importance of gender equality in building resilience to terrorism.

59. **Ms. Mudallali** (Lebanon) said that her delegation unequivocally condemned terrorism, which could not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group. Terrorism was a shared affliction that deprived individuals of their human rights and individual freedoms. The international community should continue to engage in global cooperation to counter terrorism, on the basis of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant Security Council resolutions and other international instruments. Efforts should be redoubled to establish an agreed legal definition of terrorism, with a view to the adoption of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The definition must be consistent with international law and must not conflate terrorism with the efforts of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation to exercise their legitimate right to national liberation and self-determination.

60. The territorial sovereignty, peace, security and socioeconomic stability of her country had been undermined by years of terrorist attacks. However, her Government remained determined to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism and maintain security and stability, in accordance with its obligations under international law. Lebanon had acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in 2019 and was making an intensive effort to combat the financing of terrorism. The special investigation commission of the Lebanese central bank had made the investigation of terrorist financing cases a priority, and there had been a considerable rise in the number of convictions for such crimes. The commission also conducted training sessions for the Office of the Prosecutor and other stakeholders. At the multilateral level, Lebanon had recently joined the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, in the belief that victims should be provided with support and could play a significant role in the prevention of terrorism.

61. While marginalization and radicalization did not inevitably lead to the commission of terrorist acts, they provided fertile ground for terrorism. Addressing the root causes of terrorism by encouraging inclusiveness

and tolerance in society, promoting the rule of law, fostering economic development, promoting education, eradicating poverty and empowering women and young people would help prevent people from being drawn towards violent extremism conducive to terrorism. It was also imperative to ensure that all counter-terrorism efforts were in compliance with international human rights law.

62. **Mr. Siddig** (Sudan) said that the Sudan had ratified all international conventions on international terrorism, in addition to African and Arab regional conventions on the subject, and played an active part in the development of the counter-terrorism strategies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It considered the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to be a major part of the international legal framework and a source of guidance for domestic law. It condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and was committed to implementing the Strategy in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner. While the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy lay with Member States, the United Nations also had an important role to play by providing them with assistance, at their request, to help them in that process.

63. The revolution that had begun in December 2018 had enabled the Sudan to enter into a new phase of international counter-terrorism cooperation with a view to curbing the proliferation of terrorist groups, building capacities and ensuring respect for human rights. The Sudanese counter-terrorism strategy was based on smart cooperation between the Government and all sectors of civil society, with a focus on dialogue; conflict prevention; good governance, human rights and the rule of law; engagement with local communities; empowerment of women and young people; enhancement of gender equality; and promotion of education, capacity-building, employment and strategic communications, notably through the Internet and social media. In order to address the conditions conducive to terrorism, the strategy included measures to strengthen the rule of law and institutions, improve the political culture and the effectiveness of political processes, promote security and social justice, alleviate poverty, strengthen social cohesion and promote the values of moderation and dialogue. The Sudan would also build its capacity to combat cybercrime, money-laundering and cross-border crime.

64. It was essential to maintain a clear distinction between terrorism and violent extremism. Security, stability and respect for the rule of law and State sovereignty could be upheld only in a transparent and

impartial international political and economic order geared towards peace and development.

65. **Mr. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that, in order to counter the evolving threat of terrorism, Member States should intensify their cooperation, take action to implement the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner, and tackle the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. In so doing, they should take a comprehensive approach grounded in the Charter of the United Nations, international law and human rights. Qatar condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed and whatever its justification. His delegation supported convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to adopt a unified international position on terrorism, and would continue to participate in negotiations on the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on the topic. Such an instrument must provide a clear definition of terrorism, which could not be linked to any particular ethnic group or religion or culture, and establish a clear distinction between terrorism and legitimate self-defence by peoples subjected to foreign domination.

66. The Qatari authorities had continued to cooperate with the United Nations counter-terrorism entities and the Global Counterterrorism Forum and had concluded numerous bilateral agreements on counter-terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations. Qatar was at the forefront of regional efforts to combat the financing of terrorism and was updating its laws in line with international counter-terrorism instruments. On 16 December 2018, his Government had concluded an agreement with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, whereby Qatar would contribute \$75 million over five years to support the programmes and work of the Office. Qatar would also contribute \$5 million towards the establishment in Doha of an international centre for the application of behavioural approaches to the study of violent extremism.

67. The struggle against terrorism could not, however, justify sacrificing the rule of law or human dignity, or taking discriminatory or repressive measures against civilians. Respect for the rule of law was essential, as it deprived terrorist organizations of a rhetorical argument. It was also important to involve women, who had a fundamental role to play in combating violent extremism and terrorism. Qatar would continue to cooperate with international organizations and would not be deterred by any endeavours to distract it from that goal.

68. **Mr. Al Arsan** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that much of the information provided by Member States in

the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/74/151) focused on actions taken to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from returning to their home countries, their countries of residence or third States. Once again, those measures were reactive in nature. The international community had been unable to make good use of preventive diplomacy, early warning systems or information exchange, or to implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It had failed to recognize that terrorism continued to grow because certain Governments were using it as a political, military and economic weapon. Over the previous eight years, his delegation had warned that those Governments were facilitating the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Syria and Iraq. Had the international community heeded those warnings, it would not now be facing the threat posed by returnees. Worryingly, some Governments had now adopted laws whereby individuals who had joined armed terrorist groups in conflict zones were stripped of their nationality. Such actions contravened international law, the resolutions of the Security Council and the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters.

69. International counter-terrorism efforts had fallen short not because of flaws in the counter-terrorism architecture, but rather because certain Governments lacked the political will to enforce the sanctions regime impartially or to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy or the resolutions of the Security Council. Nevertheless, his Government had adopted an open and positive approach, pointing out that the threat of terrorism would spread inexorably and that no State could defeat it alone.

70. States remained unable to address the use of the media, the Internet and religious forums for terrorist incitement, indoctrination, recruitment, fundraising and planning. While there could be no magic solution to that problem, States should at least agree that the right to life and security prevailed over all other rights, and that freedom of expression did not mean freedom to incite hatred, murder, theft, persecution of minorities, violation of women's and children's rights or destruction of civilizations, least of all in the name of warped ideologies that had no place in the modern world.

71. The multiplicity of United Nations entities engaged in counter-terrorism had caused a degree of duplication, fragmentation and waste of financial and human resources. As a Member State, the Syrian Arab Republic had a right and a duty to remind the Secretariat that the Syrian State and its allies had, for more than eight years, confronted such organizations as Al-Qaida,

ISIL, the Nusra Front and the Levant Liberation Organization. That bitter reality had not, however, persuaded the United Nations of the need to provide the Syrian State with the requisite technical and financial assistance, nor had it prompted the vast majority of the relevant United Nations entities to coordinate directly with the Syrian Government. For its counter-terrorism efforts to be credible, independent and effective, the Organization would need sustainable, stable and predictable financial resources. The Office of Counter-Terrorism and all of the competent entities therefore needed to be funded through the regular budget, as opposed to voluntary contributions, which had contributed to the politicization and double standards of those efforts.

72. Terrorism had taken a heavy toll on his country: thousands of lives had been lost, cultural artefacts had been stolen and the national infrastructure had been damaged. The current emergency situation would make it extremely difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation urged Member States to help the Syrian Arab Republic in its efforts to combat terrorism, restore its security, stability and territorial integrity, and rebuild its socio-economic infrastructure. Most importantly, they should remove the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the country, which continued to hinder its reconstruction and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

73. **Mr. Paredes Campaña** (Colombia) said that his country condemned and rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was unacceptable and unjustifiable in any circumstances, and could not and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group. Counter-terrorism efforts must be implemented in compliance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1373 (2001). Terrorism should be addressed in a holistic manner, taking into account its links with criminality. Colombia therefore called for enhanced international cooperation to address transnational organized crime, money-laundering, corruption, illicit financial flows and illicit trafficking in weapons and drugs.

74. His Government's efforts to combat terrorism were based on a multidimensional approach to security aimed at strengthening of democracy and the legitimacy of the State. Bolstering national capacities and implementing the relevant international instruments were priorities in that regard. The obligation of States to adopt measures to counter terrorism and the financing

of terrorism, including addressing the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime, was set out in various Security Council resolutions and other United Nations instruments on preventing and combating terrorism, as well as in the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. By supporting and harbouring terrorist groups such as Ejército de Liberación Nacional and remnants of Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC) in Venezuelan territory, the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro was failing to fulfil that obligation.

75. **Mr. Shabaltas** (Russian Federation) said that the key challenges in counter-terrorism security were currently the expanding influence of large terrorist groups on the course of armed conflicts and the establishment of new launching pads for terrorist activity in previously peaceful regions. Following its military defeat in Syria and Iraq, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had started regrouping, seeking to consolidate its position in Afghanistan, boost its presence in Asia and the Pacific, pursue its cooperation with terrorist groups in West and North Africa and expand its disruptive activities in Europe, among other objectives. Al-Qaida too was striving to reassert itself and make its presence felt, once again, through the commission of bloody attacks.

76. Against that backdrop, the Russian proposal to build a united front against terrorism, operating under United Nations auspices and on the basis of the principles enshrined in the Organization's Charter, was increasingly pertinent. The Russian Federation was in favour of good-faith cooperation in the fight against terrorism and opposed double standards, hidden agendas and the use of terrorist groups to achieve political and geopolitical ends. Violation of international law, military aggression against sovereign States and interference in their internal affairs, including on the pretext of fighting terrorism or preventing manifestations of extremism, were inadmissible.

77. Currently, the international community was grappling with the problem of repatriating, prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating foreign terrorist fighters and members of their families. His Government was convinced that terrorists should be tried in national courts, based on the principles of the inevitability of punishment and the proportionality of such punishment to the crime committed. International cooperation in that regard must be based on unswerving compliance with the relevant provisions of universal anti-terrorist conventions, including the principle of *aut dedere aut judicare*.

78. The Russian Federation had consistently supported the transfer of foreign terrorist fighters held in Syrian territory to the legitimate authorities of that country. Attempts to confer on various groups the right to detain and even decide the fate of such fighters were unlawful. At the same time, responsibility for dealing with such persons should not be placed entirely on the shoulders of States that had suffered the effects of armed conflicts while other States washed their hands of the matter. Family members of foreign terrorist fighters who were in Syria and Iraq illegally and were not suspected of terrorist activity should be repatriated as soon as possible.

79. It was vital to make the fullest possible use of existing international instruments on mutual legal assistance and extradition. In the absence of such instruments, all States should cooperate on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, as called for by the General Assembly in the most recent review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that connection, the Russian Federation reiterated its proposal to improve existing extradition mechanisms. It also supported the development of additional means of exchanging information on the movement of foreign terrorist fighters.

80. In addition, attention should continue to focus on the elaboration of collective measures to curb the provision of support for terrorism, including the supply of weapons. In recent years, the Security Council had made significant progress in that regard, establishing new requirements for States to prevent weapons from falling into terrorist hands, notably in its resolutions 2370 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019). Nevertheless, terrorist groups in the Middle East continued to receive military goods from outside sponsors. All States must avoid the transfer to radical elements of so-called non-lethal assistance, which was often brought into conflict zones on the pretext of helping the moderate opposition. Indeed, one of the most alarming trends of recent times was the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by various terrorist groups, whose fighters had the know-how, often acquired online, to refit civilian unmanned aerial vehicles for military use.

81. Collective efforts to tackle the ideological expansion of terrorism and prevent the recruitment of terrorists via the Internet were also crucial. Establishing unilateral mechanisms and creating artificial barriers to cooperation among States and with private-sector partners to combat the spread of terrorist content merely helped terrorists to exploit safe havens online. Those who had already fallen under the influence of ideologies of violence and terror must not be forgotten. Together

with law-enforcement measures, there was a need for campaigns to counter such propaganda, with the involvement of experts and religious leaders. That work must be based on Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) and the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives. In addition, the Russian Federation supported further work on the development of a common set of standards based on the existing international legal framework on counter-terrorism, while recognizing the leading role of States in combating terrorist propaganda.

82. Due regard must be given in the fight against terrorism and various forms of extremism to respect for human rights and to gender and youth perspectives; that was especially relevant in the context of the return of relatives of foreign terrorist fighters to their homelands. At the same time, engaging in speculation about human rights protection and shifting the focus to secondary issues would not facilitate counter-terrorism cooperation within the United Nations.

83. His Government was disappointed that the resources of specialized United Nations bodies continued to be directed towards prevention of violent extremism, which played a subordinate role in counter-terrorism efforts and was moreover a highly contentious topic. The Russian Federation stood ready to initiate a proper dialogue with a view to developing common approaches to anti-extremism. Interested parties should take a closer look at the pioneering Convention of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Countering Extremism, to which all States could accede.

84. The challenging work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism must be properly supported. It was wholly unacceptable for specialized United Nations bodies to be subjected to blackmail, including financial blackmail. The Office's projects must be carried out solely at the request of States themselves and must be guided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant Security Council resolutions and recommendations of the Security Council counter-terrorism committees. The Russian Federation would continue to actively support the Office, including by financing a wide range of technical assistance projects. By way of example, the Office would shortly launch a new programme to tackle the supply of weapons to terrorists, with funding from his Government.

85. Work in that and many other areas would lack the desired impact without close coordination with regional organizations. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the strengthening of cooperation between the Office and the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Regional

Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

86. Effective counter-terrorism cooperation could be ensured only through the gradual development and strengthening of the international legal framework. There was a need not only to increase the number of parties to relevant universal conventions and protocols, but also to enhance their implementation. Agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism could send an important signal to the international community. The Russian Federation remained ready to participate actively in efforts to find compromise wording for those parts of the draft text that had not yet been agreed on.

87. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that terrorism, which was fed by populist rhetoric, racism and xenophobia, was one of the most complex and challenging global challenges. The Maldives expressed its solidarity with the Government and people of Sri Lanka with regard to the terrorist attacks on places of worship that had taken place in that country earlier in 2019. The impact of those attacks had extended beyond Sri Lanka and had been felt in the Maldives, thus highlighting the need for the international community to work together to address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. The Maldives condemned the use of the peaceful religion of Islam to spread fear, hatred and terror and harm innocent civilians.

88. To address terrorism in all its forms, his Government had amended the Anti-Terrorism Act to equip law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities with the necessary tools to prevent acts of terrorism and address the financing of terrorism and related activities. It had recently, for the first time, issued a list of 17 groups that it considered to be affiliated with international terrorism, and criminalized affiliation with and provision of support to such groups. The National Counter Terrorism Centre had been established in 2016 to provide a common platform to facilitate information- and intelligence-sharing and to synchronize inter-agency activities to counter terrorism and violent extremism. In consultation with inter-agency partners and community stakeholders, it had recently developed a five-year national action plan on preventing and countering violent extremism. Convinced that the best way to prevent and combat terrorism was through community-based programmes, his Government was implementing a number of initiatives to empower communities, with a particular focus on women and young people, to resist radical and extremist ideologies.

89. The Maldives supported the Christchurch Call and welcomed the ongoing collaboration between world leaders and technology companies to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. The establishment of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism had been a watershed moment in that regard. His Government was committed to working with all its international partners to combat terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms, and it welcomed the technical support and expertise it was receiving from a number of Governments to help it build its national capabilities.

90. **Mr. Jaiteh** (Gambia) said that international terrorism, which undermined the enjoyment of peace and freedom of movement, was the most complex security challenge of the present time and a threat to humanity itself. There was an urgent need for collective action, since terrorism knew no boundaries and was not associated with any race, religion or creed. Terrorists ignored the sanctity of life, had no regard for the innocent or the vulnerable and did not respect any religion or sacred places.

91. His Government was at the forefront of efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It had ratified all international treaties concerning terrorism and, at the national level, had adopted laws to counter money-laundering and human trafficking. It shared counter-terrorism intelligence with the international community and encouraged other States to do the same. It also welcomed the adoption by various United Nations entities of resolutions condemning terrorist activities.

92. If terrorism were allowed to continue and spread, it could wreak havoc on national economies, destroy the way of life of people of every race and religious affiliation, undermine sustainable development efforts and ultimately prevent the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. His Government called on Member States to reject Islamophobia and urged religious and political leaders to denounce the actions of uninformed individuals who claimed that there was a connection between terrorism and Islam. Member States should focus on building bridges and finding ways to put an end to terrorism.

93. **Ms. Cerrato** (Honduras) said that terrorism threatened to destabilize the world and undermine the well-being of its population. It posed a serious threat to democratic values and international peace and security that could only be overcome through solidarity and collaboration. Steps must therefore be taken to prevent, punish and eliminate terrorism through extensive

cooperation at the international, regional, subregional and bilateral levels.

94. Her country condemned any and all forms of terrorism as being manifestations of human cruelty, for which there could be no political, ideological, religious or cultural justification. It was committed to the maintenance of international peace and security and aligned itself with all actions and agreements that strengthened the interrelations and obligations among nations with a view to promoting a culture of peace.

95. As a party to international instruments against terrorism such as the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, Honduras reiterated its commitment to combating terrorism, with full respect for the Charter of the United Nations and other rules of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. In that connection, it supported the call for a high-level conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

96. Lastly, it was important to undertake a holistic analysis, in accordance with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, of the relationship between terrorism and non-State armed groups, including gangs, since their activities had an adverse impact on the protection of human rights. Her delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#) concerning threats to international peace and security caused by international terrorism and organized crime, and General Assembly resolution [73/305](#) concerning the enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism.

97. **Mr. Singto** (Thailand) said that terrorism was one of the most serious and pressing threats to international peace and security. Acts of terrorism violated human rights and hindered global efforts to achieve sustainable development. Thailand therefore condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remained fully committed to combating the rapidly evolving threat at all levels. To that end, it continued to implement its counter-terrorism strategy for the period 2017–2021, which included a strong focus on preventing and countering violent extremism. The Control of Items Related to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, which would enter into force in January 2020, provided for multisectoral collaboration to deter proliferation. Since countering the financing of terrorism was one of the most effective ways to combat terrorism, his Government had taken legislative

measures to ensure national compliance with the relevant United Nations sanctions regimes.

98. Thailand remained committed to the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and would continue to strengthen its cooperation with other States members of ASEAN in that regard. The ASEAN “Our Eyes” initiative would provide a platform for the exchange of intelligence to counter terrorism and violent extremism in the region and complement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism. In partnership with Australia and Indonesia, Thailand had hosted the fourth Counter-Terrorism Financing Summit in November 2018, with a view to further strengthening information-sharing among financial intelligence units in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2019, Thailand had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. His country also stood ready to cooperate with all Member States to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and hoped that it would be possible to elaborate a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

99. International cooperation and strong international legal frameworks would be needed to effectively combat terrorism. There must be a focus on prevention, which should involve cutting off the illicit financial flows and resources that were financing terrorist groups; halting the spread of hateful ideologies, radicalization and violent extremism; eradicating poverty in all its forms and manifestations; promoting justice; upholding the rule of law; fostering livelihood opportunities, well-being and socioeconomic inclusion among populations; and ensuring quality education for all.

100. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his Government condemned terrorist acts committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and reaffirmed that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, civilization or ethnic group.

101. International terrorism was one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. Through their actions, terrorist groups undermined the territorial integrity and political unity of States, thereby contributing to the destabilization of legitimate Governments and undermining their constitutional order, with the ultimate goal of overthrowing them. Those actions only had an adverse impact on economic and social development, including the deliberate destruction of national infrastructure and institutions.

102. His Government expressed its full solidarity with the victims of terrorism, which had also hit his country

recently, although efforts had been made by some to conceal those events or minimize their gravity in the public eye. Terrorist attacks had been carried out against his country's critical infrastructure, including the national electricity system, in 2019. They followed a failed assassination attempt against the President of his country in 2018. According to the confessions of those who had been arrested for their involvement in the attempted assassination, the mastermind behind the attack was a Venezuelan citizen who was now living freely in Colombia and had been granted refugee status by that country in October 2018, even though the Government of Venezuela had requested his extradition in August 2018. His Government called for the full and effective implementation of the relevant norms of international law on combating terrorism, including Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#).

103. His Government condemned the provision by the Governments of Colombia and the United States of logistical support and safe harbour to a minority group of opposition politicians that was advocating the violent overthrow of the Head of State of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Colombia and the United States must comply with their obligation under international law to extradite or prosecute those criminals.

104. His Government also condemned the new criminal practices of some Governments, most notably that of the United States, which committed economic terrorism daily through its illegal unilateral coercive measures that amounted to collective punishment of at least one third of the world's population, including Venezuelans. In so doing, it was weaponizing economics, finance, technology and the internal affairs of States. Those new ways of using terror and intimidation for political purposes undermined the stability and sovereignty of States, the right to self-determination, the Charter of the United Nations and international law. There was no such thing as "good" or "bad" terrorists. All terrorism must be prevented, combated and eliminated and the narratives and ideologies that fostered it should be countered. All of that would require strong international cooperation and the adoption of new and effective measures in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, international counter-terrorism conventions and international law.

105. To address terrorism comprehensively, it was important to also look at its root causes. Poverty, inequality, injustice, lack of opportunity, oppression, foreign occupation and the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which were among the results of the illegal implementation of unilateral coercive measures, were factors that promoted terrorism and were exploited by criminal groups to propagate their

criminal political agendas based on hate, intolerance, sectarianism and extremism.

106. It was now more important than ever for States to combat terrorism through the full and non-selective implementation of the international instruments and United Nations resolutions prohibiting the transfer of arms, including small arms and light weapons, and the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would complement the existing international legal framework by providing a definition of terrorism that would make it easier to achieve a consensus on the topic.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.