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Chair: Ms. Anderberg (Vice-Chair) (Sweden)

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In the absence of Mr. Mlynár (Slovakia), Ms. Anderberg (Sweden), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

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

1. **Mr. Bukoree** (Mauritius) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever and for whatever purpose committed, and fully subscribed to the common strategic and operational framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Government had always taken great care to uphold the human rights of every individual while countering terrorism.

2. Mauritius had taken measures to avert terrorist threats and the creation of conditions conducive to the spread of extremist ideologies. It had reinforced the mandate of its counter-terrorism unit to enable it to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and established a counter-terrorism committee to ensure that the unit had the tools it needed to carry out its duties. In partnership with financial institutions, the Government of Mauritius had implemented very strict measures to ensure that the country was not used to finance terrorists and activities linked with terrorism.

3. Unless the causes of extreme radicalism and fundamentalism were closely studied, the world would remain vulnerable to terrorism. More attention must be paid to the reasons why individuals were attracted to violent extremism and groups that propagated hatred and twisted ideologies. In parallel, it was necessary to foster a culture of peace, tolerance, integration and pluralism.

4. Terrorism existed regardless of borders and severely undermined the sovereignty of States. It had emerged as one of the most pressing security challenges in the world and represented a major threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. All Member States and international organizations must strengthen their cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law.

5. **Ms. Ozgul Bilman** (Turkey) said that, as a country on the frontline of the conflict in Syria, Turkey had gained considerable experience and expertise in dealing with terrorists travelling to and from conflict zones. It had foiled a number of terrorist plots and removed Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) from its borders.

However, the transnational and evolving nature of terrorism left no room for complacency.

6. Turkey supported further development of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and would continue to support implementation of the Strategy's four pillars. It was eager to contribute to the Congress of Victims of Terrorism, to be held in 2020.

7. Turkey was fully committed to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts and attached particular importance to the implementation of Security Council resolutions that obliged Member States to take action against terrorist groups and those that financed and supported them. It was also one of the main supporters of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme counter-narcotics work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Turkey had been carrying out bilateral capacity-building activities in more than 70 countries, mostly in the form of counter-terrorism training for law enforcement agencies.

8. States must be consistent and inclusive in their collective fight and messaging against terrorism and terrorist propaganda. The plight of children at the hands of terrorist organizations should continue to be a priority for the international community. Lastly, Turkey hoped that progress would be made on the negotiations aimed at concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

9. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that, despite the measures taken by the international community to counter it, terrorism had morphed into more brutal and lethal forms and its perpetrators continued to exploit political, ethnic and sectarian fault lines.

10. Pakistan fully supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and appreciated the progress made by the international community in combating terrorism. However, more needed to be done. A greater focus should be placed on countering the unjust defamation of certain religions and communities in the counter-terrorism context. Acts of incitement and hate speech against Muslims widened the gulf in attitudes and fostered misperceptions between the Muslim and Western worlds. Those challenges should be addressed using political, legal and normative means as well as through dialogue and diplomacy. It was also important to address the root causes of terrorism, including protracted unresolved conflicts, unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, denial of the right to self-determination, political and economic injustices and political marginalization and alienation.

11. States must do more to combat the regional and global dimensions of terrorism within a cooperative

framework. Terrorism should not be politicized to serve geopolitical objectives or become an instrument used to shift blame on to others. Nor should the Financial Action Task Force be used to promote political objectives, which could only set back efforts to defeat terrorism.

12. The hard-earned stability enjoyed by Pakistan had been accomplished through a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. The over-arching lesson it had learned from its experience was that terrorist movements could not be defeated by military means alone. Pakistan would be pleased to share its valuable experience and expertise in that regard with other Member States.

13. The United Nations was uniquely positioned to build consensus among Member States in dealing with the diverse challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism. The reform of the counter-terrorism architecture had already yielded positive results. However, a robust capacity-building mechanism to help States fulfil their obligations was still lacking. To resolve that problem, two issues needed to be addressed, namely the increasingly donor-driven nature of United Nations capacity-building assistance and the lack of a steady financing mechanism for the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

14. Pakistan was in favour of a consensus-based, comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which must be consistent with international humanitarian law and clearly differentiate between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle for self-determination of people living under foreign occupation. Malicious attempts to manipulate the international consensus against terrorism to justify the suppression of people struggling for the right of self-determination must never be permitted to succeed.

15. Unless a holistic approach was taken, the international community would be fighting the symptoms rather than the underlying causes of terrorism.

16. **Mr. de la Fuente Ramirez** (Mexico) said that the proliferation of racism, xenophobia and extremist ideologies conducive to terrorism was unacceptable and contrary to the principles of international law, human rights, inclusion, equality and non-discrimination. Such ideologies represented one of the greatest threats to international peace and security and had spread easily in large part through misuse of the Internet. No country was immune to terrorism and violent extremism, as recent attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand and El Paso, United States of America, among other places, had demonstrated. His delegation firmly condemned such acts and reiterated that terrorism and violent

extremism conducive to terrorism could not and must not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group. The risk that extremism might result in terrorism was heightened by easy access to powerful firearms.

17. Victims of terrorism must be given quick access to justice and psychological services and must be treated with dignity and respect. Their important role in combating extremist narratives should be recognized. In supporting the victims of terrorism, the international community was also responding to its underlying causes and helping to build communities that were resilient to terrorism. For that reason, Mexico had joined the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and had endorsed the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. In its draft resolution on the subject, the Committee should call for stronger support for the victims of terrorism and the promotion of their role in combating and preventing terrorism.

18. To counter terrorism effectively, the rule of law must be strictly enforced in a manner consistent with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The fight against terrorism must not hinder the provision of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with international humanitarian law. Nor must terrorism be used as an excuse to violate human rights or use force. His delegation was concerned by recent interpretations of Article 51 of the Charter in which the concept of self-defence against non-State actors in a third State had been invoked supposedly on the basis that that State was unable or unwilling to respond to terrorist threats. Such interpretations went beyond the scope of the Article and could undermine the prohibition on the use of force in international relations.

19. Mexico was committed to continue working with the United Nations system and other Member States to counter the evolving transnational threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

20. **Mr. Rivero Rosario** (Cuba), reiterating his country's resolve to combat terrorism and its condemnation of terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved, said that Cuba likewise condemned any action to encourage, support, finance or conceal any terrorist act, method or practice. Terrorism could not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and must be combated through a holistic approach, combining direct confrontation, prevention and measures to eradicate its

root causes. Cuba reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and emphasized that the responsibility for its transparent implementation lay with the Member States. Cuba also supported the multilateral efforts aimed at consolidating the central role of the General Assembly in the implementation of the Strategy.

21. Cuba supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in implementing the four pillars of the Strategy without undermining the central role of the Member States, and appreciated the Office's efforts to foster international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism. The Office should always act in accordance with the Charter and international law, especially the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

22. Cuba was a party to 18 international conventions on terrorism, and it reaffirmed its determination to continue working to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the adoption of measures and the elaboration of a broad legal framework to fight that scourge. It reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill in existing legal lacunae and joint international action against terrorism, which would contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy and advance international counter-terrorism efforts. The convention must establish an exact, clear and precise definition of the crime of international terrorism in all its aspects, including State terrorism. Thus, Cuba was in favour of convening an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to provide an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In September 2018, Cuba had signed the Code of Conduct for the Achievement of a Terrorism-Free World.

23. The harmful practices whereby certain States financed, supported or promoted subversive acts aimed at "regime change" and disseminated messages of intolerance and enmity towards other peoples, cultures and political systems with the help of modern information and communications technologies were violations of the Charter and international law. Cuba reiterated its condemnation of unilateral acts by certain States that took it upon themselves to certify conduct and to establish politically motivated lists, in violation of international law. Such acts undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism. The international community could not accept that, under the banner of a so-called fight against terrorism, certain States carried out acts of aggression, directly or indirectly, against sovereign peoples and committed flagrant violations of human rights and

international humanitarian law. Cuba also firmly rejected the manipulation of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as an instrument for use against any country. It condemned the rhetoric of anger and hatred from the Government of the United States, which had exacerbated racism and xenophobia in the country, and joined the United Nations in calling for measures to be taken to eradicate discrimination in that State.

24. In defence of its independence, sovereignty and dignity, Cuba had for decades suffered the consequences of terrorist acts that had left 3,478 people dead and 2,099 disabled. The terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who had masterminded the explosion in mid-flight of a Cubana de Aviación airliner 42 years earlier, resulting in the death of 73 persons, had remained at large, with the shameful complicity of the Government of the United States, until his death. The Cuban people were outraged that the victims of that horrendous crime had never seen justice served.

25. Cuba had never participated in the organization, financing or commission of an act of terrorism against any country, and it had never assisted and would never assist in the commission of acts of international terrorism. Cuban territory had never been used and never would be used to organize, finance or commit terrorist acts against any country. His Government reiterated its support for multilateral and bilateral cooperation to counter international terrorism and was determined to work with all countries on preventing and suppressing terrorist acts.

26. **Mr. AlMatrooshi** (United Arab Emirates) said that, despite the defeat of ISIL in Syria and Iraq, that organization retained substantial assets and a global reach. Maintaining international peace and security would require confronting not only terrorism and extremism, but all forms of security threats, especially in the Middle East. The region now faced unprecedented challenges: maritime navigation had been sabotaged over the previous months, and the flagrant attack on Saudi Aramco facilities in Saudi Arabia on 14 September 2019 had posed a threat to the global economy.

27. For its part, the United Arab Emirates, in cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, would convene a global conference, to be held in Abu Dhabi on 18 and 19 December 2019, to discuss practical ways of empowering young people and promoting tolerance in countering radicalization and terrorism. His Government had designated 2019 as the Year of Tolerance. During a visit to the United Arab Emirates, Pope Francis had signed a document on human fraternity with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, and

an Abrahamic Family House, comprising a church, a mosque and a synagogue, was now being planned for construction in Abu Dhabi.

28. His Government endeavoured to exchange information and best practices with other Governments and supported United Nations efforts to prevent the financing of terrorism and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters. It was an effective participant in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Counter-ISIL Finance Group, the Terrorist Financing Targeting Centre and the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism. It had contributed \$500,000 to 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.

29. His Government had strengthened its legal framework on extremism and terrorism, acceded to more than 15 relevant regional and international instruments, and sponsored numerous resolutions on the topic. It regularly updated its laws to ensure compliance with international standards on combating the financing of terrorism. It called on Member States to renew their commitment to international law and the Charter, in order to hold to account countries that violated the norms and rules underpinning the international order, especially those that supported and financed terrorist groups.

30. **Ms. Mwangi** (Kenya) said that, while countering terrorism required the implementation of international conventions, Security Council resolutions and relevant domestic legislation and policies, that would be ineffective without cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance.

31. Kenya had ratified and domesticated all the international conventions against transnational organized crime, including the protocols on terrorism and associated crimes. It had strengthened its anti-terror legislative framework and created specific agencies to deal with the terror threat. It had domesticated the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism through its national strategy to counter violent extremism. A national counter-terrorism centre was coordinating efforts against radicalization and extremism and had already recorded much success.

32. Regionally, Kenya had forged strong law enforcement and judicial cooperation partnerships within the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Great Lakes region.

33. Her delegation commended France and New Zealand for spearheading the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online and applauded the efforts to combat terrorist exploitation of a free, open and secure Internet. It also welcomed the Aqaba Process, which sought to comprehensively address interconnected counter-terrorism and violent extremist threats through informal discussions.

34. Kenya had adopted an all-of-government and all-of-society approach to preventing and countering terrorism and had aligned its national counter-terrorism strategy with county government counter-terrorism action plans, which would help in detecting early signs of radicalization and thwarting terrorist plots by strengthening community policing, involving women and children in peace and security efforts, and heightening community awareness.

35. Al-Shabaab was destabilizing the Horn of Africa region and murdering thousands of innocent people. Its ability to maintain a steady stream of income, including through illegal taxation and kidnapping for ransom, was a major contributor to its resilience. A serious and sustained international effort was needed to cut off its financial flows. However, even concerted efforts to combat the financing of terrorism would be unlikely to succeed while Al-Shabaab continued to hold territory in Somalia. Any attempts to normalize Al-Shabaab or label it as anything other than a global terrorist organization affiliated with Al-Qaida would mean continuing to nurture a monster that would destroy many more lives.

36. In July 2019, Kenya had hosted, in conjunction with the United Nations and the African Union, a regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The conference outcomes included an agreement to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation on counter-terrorism in Africa and the establishment of an annual counter-terrorism dialogue between the United Nations and the African Union.

37. Kenya would continue to press for economies and humanitarian operations to be protected from terrorist fundraising. The Security Council already had appropriate tools at its disposal to prevent further attacks. There was a clear need to strengthen the capacities of counter-terrorism institutions and increase the resilience and cohesion of societies.

38. **Mr. Aidid** (Malaysia) said that his Government condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, which had caused nothing but loss of innocent life and damage to property. The actions of terrorists were unacceptable. Nevertheless, unless the root causes of

terrorism were addressed, the vicious cycle of terrorism and violence would never end.

39. Combating terrorism required a whole-of-nation approach, and Malaysia had accordingly taken the necessary steps to strengthen its national legal frameworks and its bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. Terrorism had been criminalized under legislation adopted in 2014. At the international level, Malaysia was a State party to 10 out of 19 international legal instruments concerning counter-terrorism and to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

40. Malaysia remained concerned about the danger that returning foreign terrorist fighters might disseminate their ideologies to the public at large. Winning their hearts and minds and that of the public had become a key part of all the Government's efforts, including its outreach to students and educators to raise awareness of such ideologies, and the improvement of the country's programmes for the deradicalization and rehabilitation of foreign terrorist fighters.

41. As the proposed comprehensive convention on international terrorism would help fill gaps in existing treaties, Malaysia welcomed the establishment of a working group at the current session with a view to its finalization. The definition of terrorism to be included in the convention must cover acts committed by both States and non-State actors. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for self-determination and it should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group.

42. Malaysia also supported the working group in discussing the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, which would be an important way of addressing the challenges impeding global counter-terrorism efforts. Nevertheless, the convening of the conference should not hinge on the conclusion of the convention.

43. **Mr. Ávila** (Dominican Republic) said that his country firmly condemned all acts of terrorism and was committed to combating it in all its forms and manifestations. It was also fully committed to the comprehensive implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and therefore believed in the importance of preventing radicalization and violent extremism.

44. The Dominican Republic was a party to most global and regional counter-terrorism instruments, including those concerning the financing of terrorism. It had built bonds of cooperation to share information,

knowledge and training with countries that had greater experience in combating terrorism, which enabled it to organize regular training programmes for staff of its national counter-terrorism centre and its armed forces. The Dominican Republic had also adopted legislation establishing a national counter-terrorism committee and setting out the penalties for perpetrators of terrorist acts and measures to protect victims. The authorities were currently carrying out risk assessments concerning the financing of terrorism. The Dominican Republic had taken part in projects coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including a training session on terrorism at international airports.

45. Terrorism posed a threat not only to peace and security, but also to social and economic development. It was therefore essential to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were consistent with the rule of law. His Government remained committed to strengthening cooperation mechanisms and measures, including the adoption of a comprehensive convention on the topic. The fight against international terrorism could be conducted only by strictly legitimate legal means that were in compliance with international human rights norms, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

46. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that her country was a party to multilateral, regional and bilateral instruments on combating terrorism and transnational organized crime and had ratified a number of conventions on preventing the financing of terrorist organizations and promoting cooperation and information-sharing between States. It had also implemented the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force and bilateral memorandums of understanding on the sharing of information relating to money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

47. Her delegation wished to reiterate its support for finalizing the process on a draft convention on international terrorism and welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to recommend that the Sixth Committee establish a working group on the matter. For the purposes of the convention, it would be important to take into consideration the legislative, judicial and executive practices of States. In El Salvador, the main security problem had been organized crime, rather than attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups. The special law on countering terrorist acts provided a definition of the term "terrorist organizations", on the basis of which 434 prosecutions had been initiated in 2018 for crimes related to acts of terrorism. El Salvador had also strengthened the institutional framework of its Office of the Attorney General, which continued to train prosecuting authorities on the application of the rules

for preventing and combating terrorism and on the development of special investigation techniques.

48. With regard to the prevention of terrorism and combating organized crime, El Salvador would strengthen its institutions and provide greater educational and employment opportunities to young people, given that they were targeted for recruitment by such groups. It called on States to increase the sharing of experiences and best practices in preventing and combating terrorism at the bilateral and regional level and as part of South-South cooperation. It also encouraged States to continue with their efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and control conventional weapons, especially firearms, which would prevent criminal and terrorist organizations from gaining access to such weapons.

49. Nevertheless, counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

50. **Ms. Pierce** (United States of America) said that all terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. Her delegation reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its commitment to the fight to end it, including by participating in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Joint international efforts were needed to prevent such heinous acts, and in that regard, the United Nations had a critical role to play in mobilizing the international community, building capacity and facilitating technical assistance to Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and relevant Security Council resolutions.

51. The four pillars of the Strategy were as relevant as ever and the biennial General Assembly resolution on the review of the Strategy had given the Secretariat the guidance it needed to help Member States in its implementation, despite containing several serious flaws that her delegation hoped would be rectified in 2020.

52. Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) and the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles remained cornerstones of the global counter-terrorism framework and an effective tool to detect and counter travel by terrorists. Through its adoption of resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) on countering the financing of terrorism, the Security Council had made a significant contribution to the global counter-terrorism framework.

53. The implementation by Member States of resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), combined with intense military pressure from the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, had made a tremendous impact on the ground in Syria and Iraq, where ISIL had lost all of the territory it once held. Thousands of foreign terrorist fighters remained in partner custody in Syria, and a concerted international effort must be made to repatriate, prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate them for humanitarian reasons and to prevent the radicalization of another generation. The adoption by Member States of a whole-of-government approach to counter-terrorism continued to be an important aspect of the work of the Security Council. A number of Security Council resolutions underscored the counter-terrorism role of all elements of government, including ministries of finance, justice, the interior and information and communications.

54. Her delegation firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies, civil society and non-governmental organizations aimed at developing practical tools to enhance the United Nations counter-terrorism framework. Continued coordination was needed among the various United Nations entities and external partners such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

55. Her delegation recognized the important work being done by the Office of Counter-Terrorism to strengthen coordination of United Nations efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The United States supported the Office's efforts and continued leadership in making United Nations counter-terrorism more effective and more efficient.

56. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate had conducted an assessment visit to the United States in May 2019 and her delegation encouraged all countries to be open to requests for such visits. The Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Directorate must also pursue an approach to implementing the Global Strategy and the recommendations of the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, in which the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law was recognized. Counter-terrorism efforts that came at the expense of human rights and the rule of law were counterproductive and often bolstered terrorist narratives.

57. Domestically, the United States was continuing to raise community awareness of violent extremism, radicalization and recruitment dynamics, including racially and ethnically motivated terrorism, which could

have international connections. It also provided community leaders with tools and resources to work on prevention efforts. One continuing area of work was State and local intervention services for individuals headed down a path toward violent extremism or radicalization before a crime was committed.

58. It was important to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes while also respecting the right to freedom of expression and recognizing that the Internet was just one of many tools used by terrorists. The United States had worked to strengthen and expand its voluntary collaboration and partnerships with private technology companies. However, while removing content online was important as a short-term strategy, it was only one part of a long-term, comprehensive solution. Member States must seek to build long-term resilience to terrorist messages by collaborating with young people to cultivate critical thinking skills and online public safety awareness in communities. Positive narratives to counter terrorist propaganda would continue to be an important element of those efforts.

59. All Member States should provide the United Nations system actors and other relevant stakeholders with sufficient resources to deliver required technical assistance and generate more effective solutions. In the current fiscal year, her Government had contributed more than \$36 million to United Nations entities and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for the development of research, assistance and training. Her delegation encouraged other Member States to share the burden of helping the United Nations implement its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, by helping it improve both its own work and its efforts to assist Member States.

60. States should also continue to partner with local communities and key civil society organizations, which were among the most effective in countering terrorist lies. The United States looked forward to the implementation plan from the Office of Counter-Terrorism regarding the creation of its civil society unit.

61. While the international community had made significant progress in developing a robust legal counter-terrorism regime, its constituent instruments would be effective only if they were widely ratified and implemented. Concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, her delegation would listen carefully to the statements of other delegations. The United Nations must send united and unambiguous signals with regard to terrorism.

62. **Mr. Machida** (Japan) said that his country had hosted the Group of 20 summit in June 2019, during which leaders had adopted a statement on preventing

exploitation of the Internet for the purposes of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Japan was fully committed to the statement and would continue to promote public-private partnerships, capacity-building and the sharing of good practices to tackle the issue in a manner consistent with the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

63. International cooperation was key to preventing terrorism and violent extremism and must be deepened. The spirit of cooperation should be reflected at the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Japan in April 2020, and in the Committee's draft resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

64. As the current and future host of two major sporting events, the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan would continue to strengthen its capabilities and further enhance its awareness of international terrorism. It stood ready to contribute to international action to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

65. **Ms. Raz** (Afghanistan) said that Afghanistan was among the countries most affected by international terrorism. Its security forces had defended the country against many terrorist groups and prevented them from capturing and controlling territory. They had also provided a secure environment for the presidential elections to take place. Terrorist groups, including the Taliban and ISIL, had suffered setbacks on the battlefield, and as a result had increased their attacks on religious centres and civilian spaces in order to create a climate of fear and prevent the normal functioning of society. Unfortunately, they continued to receive weapons, funding and manpower from abroad and enjoy safe haven outside Afghanistan.

66. Decisive action by States in denying any form of support or safe haven for terrorists, pursuant to international law, United Nations resolutions and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, was key to successful counter-terrorism measures. Her Government called for more efficient enforcement of Security Council sanction regimes, in order to constrict the resources of terrorist groups and their ability to operate.

67. Religious scholars could play a crucial role in countering terrorist narratives and extremist ideologies by condemning terrorism as contrary to the values and tenets of all religions. It was also vital to address the link between terrorism and its sources of financing, which included natural resource extraction, money-laundering and the trafficking of narcotic drugs, and to enhance regional and international cooperation on the issue.

Thanks to a comprehensive counter-narcotics strategy, Afghanistan had succeeded in reducing poppy cultivation. A sustainable and comprehensive approach must be taken to combating terrorist financing, and should include further cooperation on information-sharing, border security and management, and strengthening of the legal frameworks to curb illicit financial flows.

68. Afghanistan welcomed the attention now being paid to supporting the victims of terrorism. In conjunction with the delegation of Spain, his delegation had launched the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, which would serve to promote and protect the human rights of victims and advocate their needs.

69. Afghanistan placed a high value on the role of the United Nations in strengthening the global response to terrorism. His delegation looked forward to fruitful discussions on finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

70. **Mr. Leal Matta** (Guatemala) said that terrorist acts by radical extremists against innocent civilians were a direct attack on human dignity. The tremendous sense of uncertainty that such attacks produced had global consequences. Guatemala therefore strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack against the immigrant Hispanic community in El Paso, United States of America and other attacks in New Zealand, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Guatemala was committed to the fight against terrorism and religious intolerance and called for stricter regulation of conventional weapons with a view to preventing such tragedies in the future. Guatemala unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, and believed that no convictions, ideology or religion could justify terrorist acts.

71. Terrorism was a global phenomenon that posed a grave threat to international peace and security, undermined democracy and economic development and created instability. All States were equally affected. The legal instruments for combating terrorism, while innovative, were insufficient. It was therefore necessary for States to coordinate their efforts to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

72. In July 2019, Guatemala had taken part in the Second Hemispheric Ministerial Conference on the Fight against Terrorism, held in Argentina, and had designated its national points of contact to facilitate the sharing of information relating to terrorism. Guatemala was participating in regional efforts coordinated by the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America aimed at

addressing the illicit cross-border flows of money and recovering assets. National banks in Guatemala had also adopted guidelines for managing risks associated with money-laundering and terrorist financing and were taking part in the national risk assessment process.

73. He welcomed the improved international cooperation relating to the identification of sources of financing, anonymous transactions and the misuse of financial resources, and called on United Nations entities to continue working with Member States to assist them in achieving compliance with their international obligations to counter the financing of terrorism.

74. **Mr. Knyazyan** (Armenia) said that no country in the world was immune to terrorism. The international community should stand united to prevent and counter terrorism in all its manifestations in full compliance with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The adoption of Security Council resolution [2490 \(2019\)](#) would help to ensure that ISIL, the Nusrah Front, Al-Qaida and associated groups were held accountable for the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide perpetrated against Yazidis, Christians and other ethnic or religious minorities. The brutal crimes committed against the Armenian population in Kessab and Dayr al-Zawr and the deliberate destruction of cultural and religious monuments by those terrorist groups had demonstrated that terrorism constituted a denial of fundamental human rights.

75. The return of foreign terrorist fighters and their promotion of terrorist narratives could have destabilizing effects in conflict situations. State-led and State-sponsored radicalization of society aimed at power consolidation and identity building through the scapegoating of certain ethnic and religious groups created fertile soil for violent terrorist ideology. Any attempts to justify the acts of instigators or perpetrators of terrorism or violent extremism or of those who incited hate crimes and violence, especially in conflict situations, should be decisively and unequivocally condemned. Free media, civil society and religious communities were important partners in preventing extremism and radicalization through dialogue, tolerance and respect for human rights.

76. Armenia was actively working with its partners in the implementation of counter-terrorism conventions, the additional protocols thereto and the relevant Security Council resolutions. It supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to enhance the coordination of counter-terrorism measures.

Armenia was in the process of implementing an advance passenger information system at the Executive Directorate's recommendation. Armenia highly valued the ongoing cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism with regional and subregional organizations, including with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

77. **Mr. Simpara** (Mali) said that in his country, terrorist groups had been regularly and indiscriminately attacking national defence and security forces, humanitarian and human rights organizations and fraternal international forces. Not even women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities or cultural and historical monuments had been spared. His Government's efforts to achieve stability and promote development were undermined by the presence of terrorist organizations in the country and their criminal activities.

78. At the national level, Mali had elaborated a strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism, together with a plan of action, in order to seek solutions to the root causes of terrorism, bearing in mind local realities. The goals were to support mechanisms for interfaith dialogue; train religious leaders; promote the traditional sources of stability in the community; introduce education on a culture of peace, human rights and democracy in school curricula; and finance projects for the empowerment of women and young people, in particular decent employment for young people.

79. A national legal framework in line with the country's international obligations was in place to promote the fight against terrorism; it included provisions for the punishment of perpetrators and the protection of victims. Together with its partners, the Government was in the process of implementing the priority investment programme, which comprised some forty projects in the fields of defence, security, governance, infrastructure and development and was aimed at addressing the deeper causes of instability and creating economic, social and development opportunities, in particular for young people. His Government had also adopted a national strategy to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and established a national unit for the processing of financial data.

80. Mali underscored the importance of regional and international cooperation for combating organized transnational crime effectively. That awareness had led to the creation of the G5 Sahel Joint Force to combat terrorism, transnational crime and trafficking in migrants. Mali called on friendly countries and

international organizations to support the launch and operation of the Joint Force, which would help create conditions for development in those countries.

81. His delegation underlined the need for Member States to agree on a definition of terrorism without further delay, in order to arrive at a shared understanding of the phenomenon, which would guarantee effective international cooperation for eradicating terrorism.

82. **Mr. Suan** (Myanmar) said that terrorists had become more sophisticated, using the Internet and social media to facilitate incitement, radicalization, recruitment, communication and the financing of terrorism. Terrorists were also using the dark web and encrypted communications to share weapons and explosives designs and attack strategies. As demonstrated by ISIS, terrorists were also able to take advantage of recent developments in the fields of artificial intelligence, robotics, big data and biotechnology to expand the range and lethality of their attacks.

83. Member States must step up their collective efforts to tackle the increased use of advanced technologies by terrorists, the emergence of home-grown and lone-wolf terrorism and the threats associated with foreign terrorist fighters. Myanmar was committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions and supported the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

84. Myanmar was a party to 15 international counter-terrorism instruments. It had established offices to counter terrorism and enacted legislation to prevent terrorist financing. It was also closely cooperating with INTERPOL and other international counterparts to counter terrorism at the regional and international levels. Myanmar had also placed emphasis on preventive measures against violent extremism by promoting tolerance and interfaith and intercultural dialogue among different communities.

85. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) posed a clear and present terror threat to Myanmar. The current humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State had been ignited by the unprovoked armed attacks ARSA had carried out against government security posts in 2016 and 2017. The group did not have a base in Myanmar; instead, it radicalized and trained local Muslims from abroad and used the Internet to organize and initiate terrorist attacks. Bilateral and regional cooperation was therefore crucial to effectively curtailing the group's activities. ARSA had also reportedly received support from foreign terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, ISIS and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan.

86. ARSA had impeded the restoration of stability in Rakhine State and the repatriation of displaced persons living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, which were reportedly sheltering several thousand terrorists. The terrorists had threatened aid workers and had even killed individuals who wished to return to Rakhine State. His Government denounced any form of political, moral or material support for terrorism and urged all States to refrain from such activities. No terrorist activity, or any support for such activity, could be justified or condoned for any reason.

87. **Mr. Sinka** (Burkina Faso) said that terrorism undermined the rule of law, human rights and economic and social development. Burkina Faso firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There was no political, economic, social or ideological justification for barbaric terrorist acts perpetrated against innocent people and State authorities.

88. Terrorist attacks had been carried out in Burkina Faso for the previous four years. His Government had responded militarily to the terrorist threat, which was currently concentrated in the north of the country, along the borders with Mali and Niger. Terrorism knew no borders, however, and no State could cope with the resulting complex challenges singlehandedly, making the security situation in West Africa a major challenge to the international community as a whole requiring genuine and far-reaching cooperation. His Government had therefore engaged in extensive cooperation in customs, police, military and judiciary matters with its neighbours and other friendly countries and was working alongside Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo as part of the Accra Initiative on terrorism. Burkina Faso was also a member of the Group of Five for the Sahel, which was rolling out important initiatives as part of the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Programme, and the activities of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. In order to pursue its security and development policies, the Group of Five needed its partners to honour their financial commitments, however, and the Security Council to approve a Chapter VII mandate for the Joint Force, to ensure that it had predictable funding.

89. Recognizing that the terrorist threat in the Sahel region was a threat to all of West Africa, the Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States, meeting in Ouagadougou recently, had adopted a priority plan of action for the period from 2020 to 2024 that called for joint counter-terrorism efforts and initiatives, border control measures and steps to counter terrorism financing. They had also announced a plan to raise one billion dollars over a four-year period to address financial shortfalls. He called on all bilateral and multilateral partners to support the Sahel countries

in their fight against terrorism and violent extremism while there was still time. He also welcomed the launch of a new partnership for security and stability in the Sahel at the recent Group of Seven summit held in France.

90. Burkina Faso had ratified most of the international counter-terrorism instruments and believed that it was urgent for a comprehensive convention on terrorism to be adopted. His Government had undertaken a number of legal and institutional reforms aimed at preventing and suppressing terrorism while ensuring respect for human rights. They included the adoption of a new security policy, the establishment of judicial units specialized in financial crimes and the provision of training to law enforcement officials.

91. Poverty made it easier for terrorists to find recruits, in particular among young people, and was thus one of the main causes of terrorism. His Government had been seeking to address the concerns raised by the public in that regard in certain communities where terrorist groups were especially active through an emergency programme for the period from 2017 to 2020 aimed at bolstering government presence in those communities and strengthening community resilience.

92. **Mr. Al-Jarba** (Iraq) said that his country was grateful to the United Nations for contributing to the defeat of ISIL, a victory that was ultimately due to the sacrifices made by the Iraqi army and people. In the following phase, intensive efforts would be needed, with the cooperation of the international community, to rebuild what the terrorists had destroyed; use international legal mechanisms to prosecute terrorists and their backers; ensure that the terrorist organizations did not re-emerge; and thwart any terrorist scheme to undermine international peace and security. International organizations would need to coordinate with the Iraqi authorities to maximize the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts, monitor airports, tackle the sources of financing of terrorism, exchange information, secure the borders, dismantle terrorist networks and communication channels, stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, detect suspicious transactions, prosecute terrorists, and bridge the rifts between national judicial entities, which often hampered prosecutions. Certain States, however, were adopting measures whereby their citizens who had joined terrorist groups were stripped of their nationality, or were prevented from returning. That step did not help to address the problem or to curb recruitment; the relevant Security Council resolutions stated clearly that the international community should cooperate, and that States should take every possible step to prevent travel to terrorist hotspots.

93. Iraq was drawing on its experience to put in place a national strategy to combat terrorism, prevent its financing and tackle its intellectual and economic roots. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), it had adopted a strategy to counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), it shared with partners information concerning foreign terrorist fighters from more than 100 countries and the expertise and combat skills acquired by its armed forces.

94. Terrorism must not be associated with any specific religion, nationality or culture. Violent extremism was merely another aspect of terrorism and one that imperilled the peaceful coexistence of societies. The terrorist attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 15 March 2019, for instance, had stoked hatred that had contributed to the attacks on churches in Sri Lanka on 21 April 2019. Terrorist organizations had not been defeated; in Syria and Libya, and in parts of South Asia and West Africa, they were seeking to take advantage of local tensions in order to rebuild. They could be defeated only through a comprehensive and cooperative approach.

95. **Ms. Anukam** (Nigeria) said that terrorist acts were insidious and usually destabilized the structures of governance, with adverse effects on development; hence there was a need to develop an inclusive, collaborative approach to deterring and annihilating terrorism. Nigeria was no stranger to the activities of terrorists, and in particular, Boko Haram. Its Government had curtailed that group's heinous atrocities through a national counter-terrorism strategy and was keeping it under continuous surveillance. Government troops had taken possession of the territories formerly controlled by Boko Haram and had won the release of victims held in captivity. Since 2017, the Government had been prosecuting Boko Haram suspects kept in detention centres across the country. Hundreds of suspects had been convicted and imprisoned and many more had been released for deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration. In achieving that outcome, Nigeria had been greatly assisted by its neighbours and partners, especially Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin.

96. The counter-terrorism strategy of Nigeria was firmly anchored in respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. Under the strategy, religious leaders were encouraged to use their places of worship to enlighten their followers about extremism and intolerance. The previously established programme for deradicalization, rehabilitation, reorientation and reintegration of repentant Boko Haram members, a victim support fund, a presidential initiative for the north-east and a safe school initiative continued to be in

place. The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development had been recently established to facilitate humanitarian relief, socioeconomic stability and the resettlement of persons displaced by Boko Haram.

97. The war against terrorism could only be won through the resolve of all States Members of the United Nations to work together and to ensure full compliance with all United Nations resolutions and conventions against terrorism and its financing, as well as with other instruments adopted at the regional level. Nigeria had recently worked with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on a project to train law enforcement officials in international human rights law and the rule of law. She reaffirmed her Government's commitment to work closely with all United Nations counter-terrorism entities, consistent with its faith in the need for a collective fight against terrorism.

98. **Mr. Pham Hai Anh** (Viet Nam) said that the international legal framework pertaining to international terrorism had become increasingly comprehensive and a growing number of States were adhering to the relevant international and regional instruments, engaging in regional initiatives, concluding bilateral agreements on combating terrorism and organized crime and incorporating international commitments into their domestic law. Despite those efforts, hundreds of lives had been lost to heinous acts of terrorism and the physical and mental injuries inflicted upon survivors and their families would take years to heal. The first International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism had been observed in 2019. It was essential that the international community step up its efforts to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivations, and to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts were severely punished. Such efforts must be focused on addressing the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, lack of education, political, economic and social inequalities, and on ensuring compliance with international law.

99. As part of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Viet Nam had become a party to 15 universal treaties pertaining to counter-terrorism and transnational crime and had concluded a number of bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters and extradition. At the regional level, Viet Nam was an active member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation working group which focused on cyberterrorism and terrorist attacks on soft targets. It was also in the process of implementing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Plan

of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism for the period 2018–2025.

100. In an effort to bring its legislation in line with its international commitments, Viet Nam had revised its Penal Code to criminalize the financing of terrorist acts by legal persons. It was also working closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and INTERPOL on capacity-building projects on maritime security and emerging threats relating to foreign terrorist fighters. Viet Nam had also incorporated the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force into its national plan of action to prevent money-laundering and terrorist financing.

101. **Ms. Asgedom** (Ethiopia) said that terrorism continued to pose a challenge to international peace and security and no country could claim to be immune from terrorist threats. The fight against terrorism accordingly required a globally coordinated response, and the need for enhanced cooperation among regional and international organizations could not be overemphasized. Terrorism was a complex and ever-changing phenomenon in terms of its motivation, financing and support mechanisms, methods of attack and choice of targets. There was therefore a need for frequent revisions of national and international counter-terrorism strategies and instruments.

102. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided a framework for enhancing national, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts. While the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rested with Member States, international, regional and subregional mechanisms should continue to play a vital role in promoting counter-terrorism cooperation. The fight against terrorism must primarily be focused on its root causes, and the international community had an obligation to adopt a long-term and multi-pronged response to terrorism, addressing various conditions conducive to its spread.

103. Collective action was the key to combating terrorism. In that regard, the Ethiopian Government had ratified 9 of the 19 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and a number of regional counter-terrorism instruments. It had enacted domestic laws against money-laundering and terrorism and provided relevant training to law enforcement and other officials. The Government had also undertaken major reforms, including the revision of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, to foster socioeconomic development, expand the political space and ensure the rule of law, media freedom and respect for human rights.

104. The Horn of Africa was the site of a variety of serious interconnected transnational threats, including terrorism, organized crime, piracy and trafficking in drugs, humans and weapons. Like many African countries, Ethiopia lacked adequate resources, technical and other capacities to address those threats. The provision of the necessary assistance would be critical for ensuring that Ethiopia could more effectively implement counter-terrorism conventions and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

105. **Mr. Molefe** (South Africa) said that, although much had been done to combat terrorism by strengthening law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and extradition, it had become critically important to conclude a comprehensive convention on the topic. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the working group established with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention. He called on all delegations to show a constructive spirit and engage in compromise with a view to reaching agreement on outstanding issues and to enhancing mutual understanding on issues on which it was not currently possible to agree. For the convention to be effective, it should not conflate terrorism with peoples' legitimate aspiration for self-determination or with the struggle against colonial domination in a manner consistent with international law.

106. Like other counter-terrorism initiatives, the draft comprehensive convention must contain provisions that protected human rights, particularly the right to life; the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of freedom, detained without trial, tortured, or treated in a cruel, inhumane or degrading way; the right of access to courts; and the universally accepted rights of arrested, detained or accused persons. The human rights of victims of terrorism should also be recognized and form an integral part of the convention. The underlying conditions that gave rise to terrorism should also be addressed in the convention, and any countermeasures adopted should not result in the marginalization of individuals or groups. Lastly, it was important to promote capacity-building for developing countries, which were most vulnerable to terrorist attacks but least equipped to address them.

107. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that terrorism inflicted pain and suffering indiscriminately on innocent people. The terrorist threat was transnational, opportunistic and increasingly globalized, as it moved from the Middle East to the African continent. It was no surprise that Africa was vulnerable to the scourge, which was the consequence – and sometimes also the cause – of poverty, institutional weakness, inequitable distribution of public resources, inadequate sharing of

information, and military and political interventionism in violation of international law.

108. Terrorism also destabilized Governments, posed a threat to the territorial integrity of States and imperilled the socioeconomic development of the affected countries. Terrorist groups were particularly active in post-conflict nations, whose weak institutions allowed them to operate with impunity. Terrorist acts also often prompted States to shift investments away from socioeconomic sectors to security-related sectors. Unless Governments were given the means to implement effective counter-terrorism policies that deprived terrorist groups of their foot soldiers and cut off their supply routes and sources of financing, terrorists would soon control a large swath of the continent.

109. At the national level, his Government was in the process of adapting its laws to support counter-terrorism efforts and had included counter-terrorism in its security and emergency response policy for the period from 2017 to 2020. It had redoubled its vigilance in the face of the terrorist threat, including by promoting programmes to raise public awareness of terrorism, strengthening security at strategic facilities, stepping up cooperation with international law enforcement organizations and deploying rapid response units in major cities.

110. At the regional level, Burundi had contributed experienced troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia and welcomed the progress already made in the struggle against Al-Shabaab. Any decision to withdraw troops from Somalia must be based on the real threat the group posed, rather than on artificial timeframes and mathematical calculations. A poorly considered withdrawal would allow terrorist groups to thrive and would undo any gains made previously. In addition, the Government would step up its cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the subregion.

111. Drug trafficking and terrorist networks in the Sahel, in Europe and in Latin America were becoming more interconnected. Military interventions against terrorist strongholds, while necessary, were insufficient, and could even destabilize a State, when employed in the absence of global, non-military holistic measures aimed at keeping terrorists from returning or relocating their operations. By adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and agreeing on a definition of terrorism, States would fill a glaring gap in international law and improve the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures. More technical assistance was needed to help Member States grappling with terrorism implement the United Nations Global

Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

112. All stakeholders needed to be involved and multidimensional cooperation was needed at the local, national, regional and international levels in order to combat terrorism. In that connection, his delegation was in favour of holding an international high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to prepare an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. A shared understanding of terrorism would ensure that no arbitrary distinction could be made, for political purposes, between "good" and "bad" terrorists.

113. All Member States must abstain from linking terrorism, directly or indirectly, with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Terrorism knew no borders and required a global solution that addressed its root causes, including poverty, illiteracy, inequalities within and between States, exclusion and humiliation. Terrorism must also not be conflated with a people's struggle for freedom or a State's response to foreign aggression. Lastly, more concerted efforts needed to be made to cut off all sources of terrorist financing.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.