



General Assembly

Seventy-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
9 December 2020

Original: English

Sixth Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 7 October 2020, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Skoknic Tapia (Chile)

Contents

Agenda item 114: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>)

20-13177 (E)



Please recycle



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

Agenda item 114: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/75/176)

1. **Mr. Tommo Monthe** (Cameroon), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group strongly and unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever, by whomever and against whomever they were committed. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

2. The Group of African States reiterated its willingness to work with other delegations in continuing to refine the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It looked forward to the full implementation of that Strategy and urged the United Nations and donor countries to assist Member States in meeting their obligations in that regard. It also reiterated its support for the Office of Counter-Terrorism. Africa had long recognized the need for concrete measures to combat terrorism and remained committed to preventing and combating that scourge. The Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism had entered into force in 2002 and a plan of action for its implementation had been adopted the same year.

3. The African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism established by the African Union, and the African Union Mission in Somalia, provided relevant stakeholders with training and other forms of capacity-building to help them address terrorism-related issues and fulfil their regional and international obligations in that regard. Counter-terrorism assistance and capacity-building was needed more urgently than ever in the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, during which there had been an increase in terrorist attacks and the proliferation of terrorist groups, including those affiliated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), throughout Africa.

4. The Group reiterated the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It stood ready to work with other delegations to achieve consensus and called upon all States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. It also called upon Member States to prevent perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts from abusing refugee status and to ascertain, before granting asylum, that the asylum seeker had not planned, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts. In addition, Member States should work together to develop and implement effective counter-

narrative strategies, including through the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives.

5. More attention should be given to the further strengthening of inter-State counter-terrorism cooperation, and States should expand the range of assistance available for apprehending terrorists and investigating and preventing terrorist acts. In that regard, the recently established Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Djibouti participated in African initiatives to enhance the capacity of countries in the region to develop coordinated counter-terrorism approaches. The Group appreciated the Trans-Sahel Counter-Terrorism Initiative, developed by the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism and the United States Government's Africa Center for Strategic Studies. It also welcomed the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa, and the establishment, in Rabat, of the Office of Counter-Terrorism programme office for counter-terrorism and training in Africa.

6. Africa always endeavoured to comply with its international counter-terrorism obligations, but many African States were constrained by inadequate resources and capacities, and they appealed to the international community for assistance in that regard. The United Nations and its Member States must work hand in hand with Africa to prevent the threat of terrorism from derailing the region's hard-won progress.

7. **Mr. Fifield** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that the three States firmly condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. They reaffirmed their support for the comprehensive approach reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

8. Australia, Canada and New Zealand underscored the importance of integrating the gender dimension when analysing and responding to the threat of international terrorism, especially given the exploitation of gender by violent extremist and terrorist organizations to recruit and maintain members, and their tactical use of sexual and gender-based violence. Furthermore, women played a powerful role as buffers against violent extremism and terrorism and in front-line efforts to protect families and communities from terrorism. The three delegations remained committed to the women and peace and security agenda and would continue to support women's organizations and human rights defenders in their work to bring and maintain peace and

security in their countries. A whole-of-society and human rights approach was needed to ensure that efforts to understand and respond to violence took into account age, gender and the impact of trauma, as well as being responsive to diverse needs and experiences at the individual and community levels.

9. Many key drivers of radicalization to violence had worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Terrorists and violent extremists were exploiting the impact of the pandemic, which had revealed and exacerbated inequalities and strained social and political stability, by magnifying grievances through online propaganda at a time when people were spending more time on the Internet. The pandemic had also diverted some attention away from efforts to counter terrorism and promote social cohesion. The world was therefore likely to face a greater range of security challenges following the pandemic; however, the international community could still influence how it emerged from the crisis.

10. Australia, Canada and New Zealand fully supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the increasing alignment of effort between United Nations agencies through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. They also appreciated the significant progress made in delivering commitments under the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. In that connection, they had worked with online service providers to support the restructuring of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism into an independent organization and had collaborated with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other partners in developing voluntary transparency reporting protocols for social media companies to prevent, detect, and remove terrorist and violent extremist content online.

11. All Member States had an ongoing obligation to effectively investigate and prosecute all acts of terrorism, pursuant to Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#) and [2178 \(2014\)](#), and successive resolutions. Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) represented an important step forward in strengthening cooperation to stem terrorist financing. In that regard, Australia had in 2019 hosted the second international conference on combating the financing of terrorism under the theme “no money for terror”.

12. The challenges presented by the potential return of citizens who had travelled abroad, sometimes with their families, to fight for terrorist groups required a comprehensive approach, including preventive, security, criminal and rehabilitative measures. Member States should tailor their responses to each individual, while

ensuring that laws were upheld, human rights were protected and society was kept safe.

13. Member States also had a collective responsibility to uphold the rights of victims of terrorism. Australia, Canada and New Zealand supported the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, which took a comprehensive approach to the advancement and protection of victims’ rights and needs, including by enhancing their visibility at the international level and promoting their role in countering and delegitimizing terrorist narratives. The three delegations had also contributed to the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL since 2014 and were working to combat violent extremists and ISIL support networks. They reiterated their commitment to supporting and working collaboratively with all those engaged in countering terrorism and violent extremism, including through the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which was currently co-chaired by Canada and Morocco.

14. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that Qatar condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed and whatever its justification. Her delegation supported the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on the topic. Such an instrument must provide a specific 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 under foreign occupation. Terrorism must not be invoked as a pretext to slander certain States and manufacture crises with a view to achieving political goals inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

15. Her Government had contributed \$75 million to support the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism for the years 2019–2023. Her Government and the Office had concluded an agreement to establish in Doha an international hub on behavioural insights to counter terrorism, which was expected to open in the near future. Qatar was an active participant in several other international counter-terrorism forums and had been a driving force behind the adoption of General Assembly resolution [74/275](#), in which 9 September was proclaimed the International Day to Protect Education from Attack. At the domestic level, her Government had introduced a listing regime for terrorists and strengthened its counter-terrorism laws. It would continue to work with the Office and other international counter-terrorism entities.

16. **Ms. Asgedom** (Ethiopia) said that terrorist acts affected all spheres of life at the national, regional and international levels. No one, regardless of nationality,

sex, race, colour, religion or economic status, was exempt from the irreversible harm caused by such acts. In response to the terrorist acts committed at hotels, transport facilities and other locations in Ethiopia, causing loss of life and damage to property, her Government had taken steps to prevent and combat terrorism by enacting and implementing domestic laws, ratifying international treaties and implementing relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

17. Ethiopia had recently revised its Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to address some loopholes and bring the law into line with its obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and humanitarian law. With a view to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, the new Proclamation No. 1176/2020 allowed the security forces to take strong precautionary measures and provided for perpetrators to receive punishment proportional to their crimes.

18. Concrete measures at the regional and international levels, including strengthened international cooperation, were needed to complement the measures taken at the national level. Ethiopia had continued to play a key role in counter-terrorism efforts in Africa, especially the East African region, and was fulfilling its responsibilities with regard to the African Union and IGAD peace architectures. It had ratified nine counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, as well as a number of regional counter-terrorism instruments.

19. **Ms. Al-Mashari** (Yemen) said that her Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism could not be associated with any religion, culture, ethnic group or nationality. It was a grave violation of international law, a threat to international peace and security, and a major obstacle to sustainable development. Despite the current crisis in Yemen, her Government had made every effort, in cooperation with regional and international stakeholders, to rebuild its military and security forces and deploy them to combat terrorism throughout the country. It had adopted a range of counter-terrorism laws, acceded to relevant international instruments and concluded numerous bilateral agreements. Criminal courts had recently been established in several governorates to prosecute individuals suspected of planning or carrying out terrorist attacks, and numerous defendants had already been convicted. The Central Bank of Yemen, which was currently based in Aden, had taken significant measures to prevent the financing of terrorism, notably by reactivating the anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism unit and by circulating all relevant Security Council sanctions

lists. The Central Bank of Yemen and regional financial authorities had the power to stop transactions involving listed individuals and entities and to investigate the perpetrators of financial offences. Her Government would continue to be an active partner in regional and international efforts to combat terrorism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations.

20. **Mr. Vorshilov** (Mongolia) said that no international terrorist attacks had occurred in Mongolia and no active terrorist groups had been detected there. His Government had long given priority to the strengthening of cooperation with the United Nations and regional organizations to counter terrorism and the implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism instruments. The 2004 counter-terrorism law had recently been revised to reflect new international terrorism trends and to bring it into line with the Financial Action Task Force recommendations. The new law on counter-terrorism and proliferation had been adopted in October 2019 and all relevant legislation, regulations and guidance had been revised accordingly.

21. In 2019, Mongolia had organized a high-level interregional conference on countering violent extremism and radicalization, in cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It had also concluded a protocol with the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and had signed intergovernmental agreements on counter-terrorism cooperation with the Governments of Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation.

22. The country's leading national counter-terrorism body, the National Counter-Terrorism Council, gathered information from foreign and domestic sources, analysed it and shared it with its members. It had launched a 2020–2024 national strategy on combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, which was already being implemented. Mongolia had also conducted a national risk assessment on terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, money-laundering and terrorist financing, in order to understand the level of risk and to enhance public-private partnerships between financial institutions and law enforcement agencies through information-sharing.

23. In October 2019, Mongolia had made a high-level political commitment to work with the Financial Action Task Force to strengthen the effectiveness of its measures to combat money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to address any related

technical deficiencies. It had rapidly completed a substantial part of the action plan established and the Task Force had recently conducted a final on-site assessment to verify the ongoing implementation of the relevant reforms.

24. **Ms. Fatima** (Bangladesh) said that her country maintained a policy of zero tolerance in countering terrorism and violent extremism. Bangladesh was a party to all international counter-terrorism instruments and had joined a number of related regional initiatives. At the national level, it had enacted comprehensive laws on counter-terrorism and the prevention of money-laundering, and had adopted a whole-of-society approach to combating terrorism by investing heavily in national capacity-building, including awareness-raising, community engagement and resilience. It fully supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called for it to be comprehensively implemented. In line with that Strategy, it was in the process of drafting its own national counter-terrorism strategy.

25. All Member States needed to work together to eliminate the threat of terrorism. The United Nations should play a more robust role in steering the global discourse and action on counter-terrorism, while national capacity-building and the training of counter-terrorism personnel in developing countries should remain high on the Organization's agenda. Her delegation wished to see definite progress towards the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and welcomed the establishment of a working group with a view to finalizing the process.

26. The seamless exchange of information and intelligence-sharing among States remained critical. Moreover, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had further compounded the challenges, due recognition should be given to emerging issues such as the increased use of irregular transaction channels as a result of movement restrictions, and the greater risk of young people being exposed to online criminal activities, including violent extremism, while receiving education online. The pandemic might also cause resources and attention to be diverted away from counter-terrorism efforts.

27. The counter-terrorism agenda must be guided by respect for human rights and the rule of law. Particular attention should be paid to integrating the gender dimension in national and international efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, since women and children were disproportionately affected by terrorism. Innovative solutions must be found to counter evolving trends in international terrorism with a view to

the achievement of the common goals reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

28. **Ms. Grosso** (United States of America) said that her delegation reiterated its firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. All terrorist acts were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation. The United States supported the critical role of the United Nations in mobilizing the international community and building the capacity of Member States to implement the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, whose four pillars were as relevant as ever. Her delegation hoped that the resolution to be adopted in 2021 on the review of the Strategy would provide Member States with useful guidance, while rectifying the flaws contained in past resolutions.

29. Security Council resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), adopted unanimously, and the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles remained cornerstones of the global counter-terrorism framework and an effective tool to detect and counter terrorist travel. Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) was also a major addition to the global framework for countering the financing of terrorism. Her delegation welcomed the recent adoption by the International Civil Aviation Organization of standards and recommended practices for the collection, use, processing and protection of passenger name record data, as called for by the Security Council in resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#).

30. The Security Council had regrettably fallen short of its responsibilities in August 2020, when it had failed to include repatriation in a draft resolution addressing the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, and their accompanying family members. The need for repatriation, the use of battlefield evidence in support of law enforcement actions and prosecutions, and appropriate sentencing for terrorism-related crimes would remain priority issues for the United States in the Security Council and other multilateral forums. With thousands of foreign terrorist fighters still in custody in Syria and Iraq, and thousands of their family members in camps for the displaced, a concerted international effort that included repatriation was essential not only for humanitarian reasons, but also to prevent the radicalization of another generation. Following the destruction of the so-called "caliphate" of ISIL, the United States remained committed to addressing the ongoing threat posed by ISIL branches and networks around the world, through the resources and expertise of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL.

31. Among other counter-terrorism-related issues, her delegation wished to stress that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to countering terrorism was needed; that Governments must not use counter-terrorism as a pretext for stifling religious liberty and other human rights and fundamental freedoms, as in Xinjiang; that the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes must be countered, while ensuring respect for human rights such as freedom of expression; that all Member States should provide United Nations system actors and other relevant stakeholders with sufficient resources to deliver required technical assistance and generate more effective solutions; and that terrorism sponsored by Iran must be addressed, including through designations and sanctions that rejected the false distinction between the so-called “political” and “military” wings of Hizbullah. Among other treaty developments, President Trump had recently transmitted to the United States Senate, for its advice and consent, the 2010 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the 2010 Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft.

32. Those and other topics were addressed in her delegation’s full statement, available in the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations*.

33. **Mr. Popolizio** (Peru) said that his country condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, in all their forms and manifestations. It supported all multilateral action to respond to terrorism in a systematic, sustained and efficient manner, in accordance with international law and human rights. Such action must necessarily entail the promotion of dialogue and ethical values, while also addressing the root causes of violence and radicalization. Based on that approach, his Government was taking a number of counter-terrorism measures, under both its national counter-terrorism policy and its national policy for combating organized crime. Those measures included greater use of information and communication technologies in order to limit and prevent the use of such technologies by terrorist groups; action based on financial intelligence; and other measures to sever the links between international terrorism and organized crime. The return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters remained an important issue that the international community must address, inter alia, by adopting effective prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration policies in line with international law and human rights.

34. Peru remained committed to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and stood ready to make a tangible contribution to the next

review process. To that end, it underscored the urgent need to reach agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, the importance of which went beyond the symbolic achievement by the General Assembly of an agreed definition of terrorism.

35. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that her delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The increase in terrorist acts around the world constituted a threat not only to the maintenance of international peace and security but also to sustainable development, the rule of law and human rights. Such indiscriminate attacks had a particularly severe impact on vulnerable groups such as women and children.

36. Her Government stood ready to take measures to prevent and combat terrorism in all its manifestations, and called for Member States to promote the international cooperation and information-sharing needed to investigate and prosecute such acts. She urged the Office of Counter-Terrorism to provide support to countries such as her own, where terrorism was interrelated with organized crime. In view of that specific situation, her Government had given priority to the implementation of its territorial control plan, which constituted a firm and wide-ranging response to protect the Salvadoran population from organized crime and criminal groups by revitalizing the social fabric of local communities, regaining control of public spaces and empowering young people. The special law against acts of terrorism provided definitions of various terrorist offences.

37. Her delegation reaffirmed the importance of fostering a culture of peace, in which priority was given to the promotion, protection and upholding of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and measures were taken to strengthen social cohesion as a way to prevent the emergence of violent extremism. Given that the continued existence of terrorist groups posed a major threat to individuals’ legal interests and the consolidation of fair and inclusive societies, it was important that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy be implemented.

38. A binding international legal instrument to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts was needed more than ever. To that end, her delegation wished to reiterate its support for the finalization of the process on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which should take into account the legislative, judicial and executive practices of States.

39. **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. His delegation therefore reaffirmed its commitment to the fight against terrorism and religious intolerance. It called for stricter regulation of conventional weapons, as well as of the purchase, manufacture and use of weapons of mass destruction of any kind by non-State actors, in order to prevent the commission of acts that threatened international peace and security.

40. 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.

41. Guatemala was participating in regional efforts coordinated by the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America aimed at addressing 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.

42. 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.

43. **Ms. Schneider Rittener** (Switzerland) said that her Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation. Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism were linked to the Organization's conflict prevention and peacebuilding work. Investment in responsible, effective and legitimate institutions should ensure that measures to prevent violent extremism and terrorism were based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, which could increase their effectiveness given that human rights violations, poor governance and the absence of the rule of law were all factors driving terrorism and violent extremism. Switzerland remained committed to ensuring the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including its fourth pillar, on measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism, which received fewer resources than the other pillars. For that

reason, strengthening of the rule of law and respect for international law lay at the heart of her Government's priorities.

44. All relevant actors, including both States and civil society, must join forces to prevent terrorism and violent extremism and ensure full respect for human rights and international law. Noting that the Office of Counter-Terrorism had developed a civil society engagement strategy focusing on human rights, gender and youth, her delegation encouraged the United Nations to allocate the resources necessary for its successful implementation, not only at Headquarters but especially in the field. Effective collaboration between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other parts of the United Nations system could be best achieved by creating a dedicated unit within the Office to develop and coordinate the implementation of specific programmes in the field, in close partnership with civil society actors, Member States and other United Nations entities. Such a unit should also protect civil society space in the context of counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

45. The tensions between counter-terrorism measures and humanitarian activities – which largely had different objectives – led to entire populations being left without assistance or protection if they lived in areas controlled by armed groups on terrorist watch lists. While the inclusion of humanitarian exemptions in sanctions and counter-terrorism regimes was generally seen as the solution to such issues, open and inclusive discussions were needed at the international level regarding the form that such exemptions could take and, even more importantly, how they should be implemented at the national level. Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), in which the Council urged States to take into account the potential effect of counter-financing of terrorism measures on exclusively humanitarian activities, was an excellent example of the required approach; however, the impact in the field would be determined by how Member States implemented that provision. In order to be fully effective, all political or military counter-terrorism measures must respect international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law.

46. **Ms. de Souza Schmitz** (Brazil) said that terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations. The repudiation of terrorism was enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution as a guiding principle of the country's foreign policy. Its commitment to combating terrorism was also reflected in domestic legislation, which was completely aligned with the Financial Action Task Force recommendations. Aware of the fact that Member States bore the primary responsibility for

combating terrorism, her delegation had engaged in all debates on the matter at the United Nations.

47. The current patchwork of sectoral conventions for the prohibition of specific terrorism-related acts lacked the cohesiveness that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would provide. A high-level conference should therefore be convened under the auspices of the United Nations to adopt such a convention. The second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States could provide a suitable opportunity, and the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution [51/210](#) of 17 December 1996 could be reconvened to conduct the preparatory process. The absence of a universally accepted definition of terrorism was intrinsically linked to the stalemate in the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention and was obstructing progress towards the shared goal of eliminating international terrorism. The emergence of such terms as radicalism and violent extremism could further hinder understanding of the causes of such phenomena and the best ways to prevent and counter them.

48. The shift in decision-making power on many counter-terrorism issues from the General Assembly to the Security Council over recent years had implications for the law on the use of force and might illustrate a change in the preferred responses to terrorism. By placing international law at the centre of the discussions on counter-terrorism issues, the Committee had a unique contribution to make. Counter-terrorism efforts must comply with the Charter and international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law; otherwise, they would not be effective and might result in more extremism conducive to terrorism.

49. **Mr. Kabba** (Sierra Leone) said that his country reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed. It continued to implement its 2005 anti-money-laundering law, which it had amended in 2012 to cover the prohibition and punishment of the financing of terrorism.

50. Extremist terrorist activity in the north of Mali threatened the security of the entire region. Speaking at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) extraordinary session on the sociopolitical situation in Mali held by videoconference on 27 July 2020, the President of Sierra Leone, had underscored the importance of maintaining peace and order in that country and had urged strong support for a broader and more robust mandate for the United Nations

Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

51. His delegation reiterated its support for the urgent finalization of the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and called for all Member States to fully support efforts to reach a consensus agreement, including on outstanding issues. It also supported the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations and reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

52. Sierra Leone welcomed the continuing action on preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Given that Member States needed support in the development of associated strategies, plans of action and legislative or policy frameworks, his delegation appreciated the coordinating work of the United Nations in that regard and the capacity-building assistance it had provided, particularly in the West African Sahel region. Extremist violence, terrorism and transnational crime should be addressed in an organized and comprehensive manner. Counter-terrorism responses must always be gender-sensitive and in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.

53. **Mr. Al Reesi** (Oman) said that his Government consistently condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its justification, and had acceded to numerous international counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering instruments. Oman rejected extremist ideology conducive to terrorism and was committed to a culture of peace, justice, sustainable development, tolerance and the coexistence of peoples and States. His Government hoped that joint international action would lead to practical steps towards eliminating extremism and terrorism. It would support all efforts towards that goal as part of a global vision eschewing selectivity and double standards.

54. **Mr. Aidid** (Malaysia) said that his delegation appreciated the convening of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week, during which participants had underscored the importance of multilateralism and a shared sense of common purpose in addressing global terrorism threats. Malaysia supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, as soon as was feasible in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, to address the challenges hindering global counter-terrorism efforts. The convening of such a conference should not hinge on the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Malaysia continued to support the establishment of a working group to finalize the

draft convention, as well as all efforts to resolve outstanding issues during the intersessional period.

55. Malaysia shared concerns that the pandemic might exacerbate an already complex, evolving and increasingly localized terrorism threat. Although measures imposed to curb the spread of the virus, such as restrictions on movement, might have hindered the operational activities of terrorists, they might also have exposed the general public to the danger of online radicalization and recruitment. In that regard, greater intelligence cooperation was needed at the national and international levels to counter terrorism and radicalization during the pandemic. Priority should be given to effective communication strategies to combat misinformation. Malaysia remained vigilant in relation to online activities and planned to adopt the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism was also engaging with youth regarding the dangers of radicalization.

56. His Government continued to focus on detection and prevention to stay a step ahead of local ISIL supporters and sympathizers. Stricter control of international borders had reduced the movement of foreigners into Malaysia, supporting national efforts to prevent the entry of foreign terrorist fighters and other extremist elements. Malaysia remained vigilant with regard to the emerging threats of bioterrorism and cyberattacks against critical national infrastructure and would continue to strengthen related preventive measures. In conclusion, Malaysia remained committed to working within the United Nations framework in its efforts to prevent and eliminate terrorism.

57. **Mr. Elsadig Ali Sayed Ahmed** (Sudan) said that, following the December 2018 revolution in the Sudan, his Government had worked closely with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. 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.

58. Efforts to combat violent extremism should not be focused on security and military solutions alone. Instead, action should be taken to tackle the deep roots of the problem, especially by combating poverty,

promoting sustainable development, fostering North-South dialogue and supporting reconstruction in developing countries, in particular in Africa. In order to promote national counter-terrorism efforts and regional and international cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, national authorities needed technical support and capacity-building in a spirit of mutual respect, something that should not detract from national ownership. The Sudan would continue to combat terrorism in accordance with its international obligations and in compliance with international law and human rights.

59. More detailed comments on those issues could be found in his written statement, available in the eStatements section of the *Journal*.

60. **Mr. Espinosa Cañizares** (Ecuador) said that his country strongly condemned and rejected all terrorist acts, by whomsoever and for whatever purposes committed, as they violated international law, international humanitarian law and human rights. Terrorism threatened national security and stability, and had serious consequences for economic and social development. Since no State was immune from terrorism, international cooperation was essential in bringing the perpetrators to justice. In that regard, Ecuador appreciated the ongoing cooperation, awareness-building and implementation efforts undertaken in connection with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

61. Ecuador was committed to denying safe haven to terrorists and those financing them so as to prevent its territory from being used for terrorist recruitment, radicalization and propaganda. It was also concerned that terrorist groups could profit from situations of institutional weakness or internal conflict in order to step up their criminal activities. In early 2018, a number of violent acts had been perpetrated at the Ecuadorian border by irregular armed groups linked to transnational organized crime, resulting in deaths and injuries, population displacement and damage to national infrastructure. In response, his Government had set up a national committee for border security and had implemented a plan for the defence of the northern border to address the threat of transnational terrorism in all its forms.

62. It was necessary to address the links between terrorism, organized crime and corruption. Ecuador condemned the acts of corruption committed by networks that seriously threatened the stability of States and entire regions, and it highlighted the importance of cooperation through agreements on the exchange of

confidential information, in particular in the area of finance, to enable effective investigations into the financing of terrorism and money-laundering. Security Council resolution 2482 (2019) remained vital in that regard. Ecuador would continue to strengthen its legal framework and support all initiatives to prevent terrorist groups from profiting from national and transnational organized crime.

63. **Mr. Molefe** (South Africa) said that his country unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and fully endorsed the aspiration of the African Union, as expressed in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, to build a region free of armed conflict, terrorism, extremism and intolerance. His delegation supported the General Assembly's recommendation that the Committee establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, the conclusion of which would do much to enhance existing counter-terrorism efforts at the international, regional and national levels, including in the areas of law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and extraditions. South Africa stood ready to work constructively to reach agreement on outstanding issues and encouraged other Member States to take a similar approach.

64. The socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic downturn would certainly exacerbate the conditions known to be conducive to terrorism, making counter-terrorism assistance and capacity-building even more urgent. Africa had already seen an increase in terrorist attacks and a proliferation of terrorist groups, including those affiliated with ISIL.

65. The Committee should also focus on the rights of victims of terrorism. Those rights, and the underlying causes of terrorism, should be addressed in the comprehensive convention. Furthermore, the varied causes and manifestations of terrorism should be taken into account when developing counter-terrorism measures, which should be in accordance with international law and should not marginalize individuals or groups, as a sense of alienation often exacerbated extremism and led to an increase in terrorist recruitment. Lastly, support and capacity-building to enable developing countries to implement local counter-terrorism initiatives were vital. Developing countries were the most vulnerable to terrorist attacks, but the worst equipped to respond to them.

66. His delegation's full statement would be made available in the eStatements section of the *Journal*.

67. **Ms. Lahmiri** (Morocco) said that the United Nations played a central role in global efforts to combat

terrorism. In that regard, Morocco welcomed the signing, on 6 October 2020, of a headquarters agreement for the establishment, in Rabat, of the Office of Counter-Terrorism programme office for counter-terrorism and training in Africa. The new office was being established to address the growing terrorist threat in Africa and would work collaboratively with African States to meet their needs.

68. Recent decades had seen a significant increase in terrorist movements that threatened international peace and security, national stability and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. Terrorism also directly hindered sustainable economic development and the strengthening of the rule of law in already unstable regions, particularly in Africa. Morocco reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. Enhanced international cooperation, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, was necessary to address the growing threat.

69. Her Government took a multidimensional approach to counter-terrorism, based on human rights and international humanitarian law. Morocco was also working to further develop the vision of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, of which it was a Co-Chair. The Forum's Coordinating Committee had recently adopted a ministerial declaration conveying a message of unity and commitment in combating terrorism against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Forum had also recently adopted two framework documents: the Memorandum on Good Practices on Strengthening National-Local Cooperation in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, and an addendum to The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism.

70. Porous borders, capacity gaps, a lack of technical resources for defence and security forces, inadequate capacity of criminal justice and prison systems, and a lack of police and judicial cooperation at the national, regional and international levels were among the many factors contributing to the increased terrorist threat. Her Government was a strong proponent of regional and international cooperation to address terrorism, particularly in the areas of border security, information exchange and compliance with international conventions and agreements. Morocco was a target of terrorist groups, owing to the unstable security environment in the 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 key State actors.

71. Security measures alone were not sufficient to combat terrorism; they must be complemented by measures to foster social and economic inclusion and appropriate education, the absence of which provided fertile ground for radicalization, particularly of youth. Her Government's national strategy, which encompassed security-related, social, economic and religious elements, included a human development initiative, the social reintegration of former detainees, programmes to eliminate slums in cities, the provision of training for imams and the promotion of a moderate version of Islam. For several years Morocco had also been taking action to strengthen and institutionalize women's participation in the religious sphere. All those actions were aligned with the country's national migration strategy. Morocco played a critical role in international counter-terrorism coalitions and in combating terrorism at the regional level.

72. **Mr. Geng Shuang** (China) said that the international community must cooperate and forge a joint response to the threat of terrorism, which was likely to rise in the medium and long term as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Multilateralism was essential: all countries must uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the international system with the United Nations at its centre, and international order based on international law. The Organization should continue to play its coordinating role in combating terrorism at the global level. The international community must build greater consensus with regard to counter-terrorism and oppose double standards or interference in countries' internal affairs under the pretext of combating terrorism.

73. It was also necessary to promote the international rule of law. Counter-terrorism efforts must be undertaken with respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, and the universally accepted counter-terrorism treaties must be implemented. In that connection, China looked forward to the early conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. States should likewise fully implement the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, while seeking to tackle the root causes of terrorism and taking preventive anti-radicalization measures. Countries must conduct in-depth analyses of the evolving situation, which they should use to inform the development of effective measures to prevent terrorists from using the pandemic to incite or carry out terrorist acts. They should also deepen cooperation to address issues such as cyberterrorism, foreign terrorist fighters, radicalization and terrorist financing, including with a view to

enhancing the counter-terrorism capacity of developing countries.

74. China implemented all United Nations counter-terrorism resolutions, and actively participated in international and regional counter-terrorism operations through the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other forums. It would work with the international community to conduct an in-depth analysis of the impact of the pandemic on terrorism globally; continue to cooperate with all countries, especially developing countries, through multilateral and bilateral exchanges and capacity-building; and continue to provide political and financial support to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

75. Earlier, the representative of the United States had attacked and smeared China in relation to Xinjiang. His Government's full response to those accusations, which were completely baseless, would be made available in the eStatements section of the *Journal*. The Chinese region of Xinjiang had suffered greatly as a consequence of terrorism and extremism and his Government had taken a series of preventive and deradicalization measures, with remarkable results: there had not been a single terrorist attack in Xinjiang in the last three years. His Government fully guaranteed the fundamental rights, including the rights to life, health and development, of people of all ethnic groups. Terrorism was a challenge common to all countries and China strongly opposed double standards on counter-terrorism. The United States should stop lying, manipulating situations for its own political ends and taking Xinjiang-related issues as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of China.

76. **Ms. Weiss Ma'udi** (Israel) said that her Government remained fully committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it had clearly indicated in its past statements on the issue. Israel had made significant progress in recent years, especially since its adoption in 2016 of a comprehensive anti-terrorism law. In 2018, it had established its National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing, which worked to design and coordinate counter-terrorism policy at the domestic level, including with a view to identifying financial infrastructure and networks that supported terrorism. Also in 2018, Israel had become a full member of the Financial Action Task Force, which, in its December 2018 *Mutual Evaluation Report*, had given Israel the highest possible ratings in the areas of combating terrorist financing and effective use of financial intelligence. Her Government remained open to sharing its best practices with United Nations counter-terrorism experts and other States facing similar challenges.

77. The meaningful domestic contributions of many Member States to the international fight against terrorism, including the recent adoption of important designations of terrorist organizations, were commendable. She wished to highlight her country's ongoing cooperation with United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism. Israel had recently joined the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and had been successfully collaborating with the United Nations in that area, including in the field of law, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

78. Her Government looked forward to the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy scheduled to take place in June 2021. As a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Israel welcomed the focus on victims in the virtual events of 2020 and the events planned for 2021. It remained convinced of the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would enshrine a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; no cause or grievance could or should ever justify or excuse terrorism.

79. **Mr. Elgharib** (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.

80. In 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt had, for the first time, issued a report on the country's efforts to combat terrorism. His Government took a comprehensive approach that included supporting national institutions and law enforcement agencies, confronting all terrorist organizations without exception, holding accountable States that gave them safe haven, prosecuting anyone involved in terrorist activities, tackling terrorist and extremist narratives, fostering socioeconomic development, alleviating poverty and strengthening the protection of victims. In the report, an account was also given of the country's laws on terrorism and money-laundering. The country's religious institutions, including Al-Azhar University and Dar al-Ifta, played an active part in countering terrorist narratives. The Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism monitored extremist ideas on the Internet in 12 languages and used social media to provide counter-narratives and foster a correct understanding of Islam and the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Egyptian law enforcement agencies were working to confront foreign terrorist fighters and

to combat cybercrime, incitement and the financing of terrorism. They had recently carried out several successful operations against groups on Egyptian territory, such as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which was active in a limited part of northern Sinai Governorate. The Egyptian financial intelligence unit worked closely with other State agencies to implement promptly the Security Council resolutions regarding sanctions regimes.

81. **Mr. Youssef Aden Moussa** (Djibouti) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had further complicated the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, with the emergence of new strategic and practical challenges. Those challenges would be all the harder for States to address because they had needed to reallocate a significant proportion of their financial resources to combating the pandemic and addressing its economic and social consequences. The international community must redouble its efforts to prevent terrorist and extremist groups from taking advantage of the disruption and economic hardships engendered by the pandemic.

82. It was important to target new information and communications technologies, particularly given the social isolation that often characterized victims of ideological recruitment by terrorist groups and the upsurge of hate speech and conspiracy theories during the pandemic. Although the movement of terrorist groups had been temporarily restricted by the border closures across the world, those groups had still managed to carry out terrorist acts in several countries, particularly in Africa. It was therefore imperative to step up collective action, while ensuring balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The international community must provide increased support for the counter-terrorism efforts of developing countries and ensure that violent extremism was never associated with any specific religion, race, culture or society.

83. East Africa was plagued by extremist and terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and Al-Shabaab, and the Horn of Africa was in danger of seeing a reversal of the recent progress that had been made both in Somalia, thanks to the military successes of the African Union Mission in Somalia, and in the region as a whole, owing to the work of the IGAD Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, which was based in Djibouti. Although the full consequences of the pandemic were as yet unclear, the major disruptions to humanitarian aid for the millions of displaced persons and refugees in the region, combined with the reduction in or termination of the military operations, would doubtless have an impact.

84. Djibouti welcomed the decision to establish an Office of Counter-Terrorism programme office in Morocco; it would make a significant contribution to the development, implementation and sharing of knowledge on counter-terrorism measures in Africa as a whole. For nearly two decades Djibouti had played a central role in international action to combat terrorism in the Horn of Africa and piracy in the Gulf of Aden. All partner Member States were urged to maintain and strengthen their counter-terrorism support for the region so that the advances made thus far could be preserved and consolidated.

85. **Mr. Kayalar** (Turkey) said that while the COVID-19 pandemic had inevitably affected terrorist groups, it had not deterred them from seeking new ways of operating. Many such groups were now using online platforms, and an innovative response to that evolving threat was therefore required. Stopping terrorists and bringing them to justice remained as urgent as ever.

86. Turkey strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and paid tribute to all its victims. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any particular religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group, and should be holistically addressed. Effective international cooperation was needed in order to achieve lasting results. The international community must take a principled stance against all terrorist organizations: fighting one while relying on the support of another hampered overall counter-terrorism efforts. The necessary measures should be promoted to ensure deterrent punishments for perpetrators of terrorist acts, and for those who provided them with financial support or engaged in terrorist propaganda. It was regrettable that members of terrorist organizations were still allowed to exploit the right to asylum in certain countries as a means of circumventing justice. The principle of “extradite or prosecute” should be implemented universally.

87. The need to address the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and their families had become increasingly pressing over the last year. Bilaterally and in multilateral forums, including the United Nations and the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Turkey had consistently emphasized the inadequacy of temporary or legally unsound fixes to prevent the return of such individuals. The detention of foreign terrorist fighters should not be left to other terrorist groups; Member States should avoid actions that might, even if implicitly and inadvertently, provide legitimacy to other terrorist organizations. For years, Turkey had been deporting foreign nationals suspected of being foreign terrorist fighters, in close cooperation with their countries of origin. To date, it had deported more than 8,000 foreign

nationals and registered approximately 100,000 foreign nationals with proven connections to international terrorism in its no-entry database. It would continue to take a proactive approach to the deportation of foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

88. Turkey had long been at the forefront of efforts to combat terrorist organizations with a broad spectrum of ideologies and had contributed to the strengthening of international and regional counter-terrorism cooperation through its role in international organizations and working groups. It was a Co-Chair of the working group on foreign terrorist fighters of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL.

89. In order for their counter-terrorism efforts to be legitimate, countries must uphold human rights and ensure that all measures taken were consistent with their international obligations. The United Nations was the primary platform for a collective and coherent response to terrorism and violent extremism. Turkey therefore supported the further development of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the implementation of its four pillars. It would continue to cooperate with and contribute to the capacity-building efforts of UNODC, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and other relevant bodies.

90. **Mr. Kawase** (Japan) said that terrorists and violent extremists were seeking to exploit the growing dependence on information and communications technology and the difficulties in governance that had resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Vigilance was especially imperative in cyberspace, which was increasingly being leveraged for terrorist propaganda, recruitment and financing. The pandemic was a stark reminder of the need for cooperation on all fronts – including to combat conventional and emerging terrorist threats – between States, international organizations, academia, civil society, private companies and other stakeholders.

91. Japan contributed to counter-terrorism discussions within the United Nations and other relevant forums, as well as assisting other States with their counter-terrorism measures in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies. For example, in one initiative intended to increase States’ resilience to the exploitation of cyberspace by terrorists during the pandemic, Japan had supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to enhance the investigative capacity of States in Asia with regard to the collection of open source information from the Internet and social media, and to raise awareness about terrorists’ utilization of the dark web and cryptoassets.

92. The international community should also prepare for post-pandemic risks, such as the reinvigoration of terrorists' transboundary movements. In that regard, Japan had donated to the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme since its inception in 2019. In March 2021, it would host the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at which participants would discuss, among other topics, international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Japan would spare no effort to ensure the success of the Congress, which should benefit greatly from the Committee's discussions on the subject.

93. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba) said that Cuba condemned terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, wherever and by and against whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Terrorism could not and should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and must be combated holistically, including through 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 Member States. Cuba also supported the multilateral efforts aimed at consolidating the central role of the General Assembly in the implementation of the Strategy.

94. Cuba likewise condemned any action to encourage, support, finance or conceal any terrorist act, method or practice, as well as the unilateral acts and mechanisms of certain Governments, such as that of the United States, which took it upon themselves to establish politically motivated lists that were contrary to international law and undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism. In spite of the bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation treaties in force, the United States Department of State had arbitrarily and unilaterally included Cuba on its list of countries that purportedly did not fully collaborate in the fight against terrorism. The list, known to be without basis or international backing, was designed only to discredit and coerce countries that refused, in their sovereign decisions, to abide by the will of the Government of the United States.

95. That Government had refused to recognize as a terrorist act the attack carried out by Alexander Alazo against the Embassy of Cuba in Washington, D.C., in April 2020, although Mr. Alazo had endangered the lives and safety of the Embassy staff by firing at the building with an AK-47 rifle, and had publicly admitted his intent to kill. In denying the nature of the attack, the

Government of the United States was disregarding the application of international counter-terrorism instruments such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, to which both countries were Parties. The terrorist act was a direct result of the aggressive policy and hate speech of the Government of the United States against Cuba, the continual incitement to violence in which its politicians engaged and the actions of anti-Cuban extremist groups that had made such attacks a way of life.

96. Groups and individuals that in the past had carried out terrorist acts against Cuba had benefited from impunity in the United States for years, with the full knowledge of that country's law enforcement agencies. Renowned terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, for instance, had died free despite having confessed to masterminding the explosion in mid-flight of a Cubana de Aviación airliner 44 years earlier, resulting in the death of 73 persons. The Cuban people were outraged that the victims of that horrendous crime had never seen justice served.

97. Cuba forcefully rejected the manipulation of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as an instrument for use against any country. It remained committed to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill in the existing legal lacunae with regard to the definition of terrorism.

98. **Mr. Mikeladze** (Georgia) said that, as the world struggled with unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it also faced an increasingly diverse and unpredictable international security environment associated with the global threat of terrorism. Addressing that threat required well-synchronized international cooperation and a firm collective stance. Although according to the Global Terrorism Index the impact of terrorism on Georgia was "very low", the assessment of terrorism-related challenges and the development of policy to counter any form of threat remained high on his Government's agenda.

99. Georgia condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and continued to pursue effective domestic counter-terrorism measures, which included a campaign aimed at countering terrorist narratives. It had enhanced its legislation, including through the adoption of a national counter-terrorism strategy and an accompanying action plan for 2019 to 2021, based on the recommendations of civil society, experts and international partners. Preventive measures were prioritized under the strategy, as was the identification of a role for children and youth in the prevention of

radicalization and in deradicalization and reintegration. Through a law on money-laundering and terrorist financing adopted in 2019, his Government had established a mechanism for the further prevention, detection and suppression of illegal activities, including the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Georgia was also strengthening its border security with a view to halting the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. It would intensify its counter-terrorism cooperation at the international and regional levels and would continue to enhance its existing network of liaison officers and security attachés. Unfortunately, “grey zones”, in other words, territories beyond the control of central Governments, which were fertile ground for illicit activities including terrorism, continued to exist around the world. In Georgia, the Russian-occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali remained outside national and international control and monitoring, and thus posed a serious threat.

100. **Mr. Umasankar** (India), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Pakistani delegation continued to subject the Committee to its incessant ranting. It should not cite figures without being certain of their veracity. The Government of Pakistan had brought genocide to South Asia 39 years earlier, killing its own people, and had never offered a sincere apology for its horrendous acts. From its State funds, it provided pensions for designated terrorists. The country bore the dubious distinction of being host to the most terrorists listed by the United Nations. In July 2020, addressing the national Parliament, the Prime Minister of Pakistan had called Osama bin Laden a “martyr”. The Government had systematically carried out ethnic cleansing through the abuse of its blasphemy laws and forced religious conversions. It even encouraged the killing of fellow Muslims merely because they belonged to a different sect or region of the country, and sponsored terrorist attacks against its neighbours. All Pakistan had to show for the last 70 years was terrorism, ethnic cleansing, majoritarian fundamentalism and a clandestine nuclear trade.

101. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was an integral and inalienable part of India, and its laws were strictly the internal affairs of that country. The only dispute remaining related to the part of Kashmir that was still illegally occupied by Pakistan. His delegation called on Pakistan to vacate all those areas of which it was in illegal occupation, and urged the Committee to focus its attention on the deep state in Pakistan and that country’s political and financial support for terrorist organizations and mercenaries.

102. **Mr. Mohammad Aamir Khan** (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the attempt by

the Indian delegation to mislead the international community with false allegations of terrorism was regrettable but not surprising, since obfuscation and deception to divert the world’s attention from realities on the ground had become a familiar Indian ploy. Pakistan categorically rejected all the frivolous allegations made by the Indian delegation. It was in fact India that had used terrorism as an instrument of its coercive policies against every one of its neighbours, especially Pakistan, and against its own Muslim population, particularly in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

103. India was currently engaged in at least four different types of terrorism. First was its State terrorism, used to suppress the people of illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which had, however, done little to weaken the indigenous and legitimate struggle of Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. The attempts by the Government of India to conceal the reality of its brutal occupation of the disputed territory had failed miserably. Second, India supported outfits such as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), both of which were affiliated with ISIL and ISIL-Khorasan and had been implicated by 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 in cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistan. Over the last decade, thousands of Pakistanis had been killed or injured as a result of such Indian-sponsored terrorist acts. Third, India financed and organized secret mercenary terrorist organizations based outside the borders of Pakistan to carry out attacks inside his country to impede the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Recent attacks included those against the Chinese Consulate and the national stock exchange in Karachi. Fourth, Indian Hindu supremacist organizations, especially the fascist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which was the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had for decades preached the violent suppression of minorities, including Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Dalits, within India. Mr. Modi, a lifelong RSS member, had been responsible for the pogrom in Gujarat in 2002, in which 2,000 innocent Muslim children, women and men had been killed; another anti-Muslim pogrom had taken place in Delhi earlier in 2020.

104. Pakistan reaffirmed its steadfast support for the legitimate struggle of the people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It would continue to expose Indian terrorist activities before the international community.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.