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Chair: Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar)

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

Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/76/201)

1. **Mr. Geng Shuang** (China) said that while States had made significant efforts to combat terrorism and enhance international cooperation in that regard, the international community currently faced new and daunting challenges. Al-Qaida and Islamic State were still active in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, and terrorist organizations were spreading in Africa and East Asia, using new technology to disseminate their ideologies, raise funds, recruit members, direct attacks and build networks. The effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic – such as worsening poverty and social problems, the increasing North-South gap and the spread of extremist ideology – would lead to an increase in terrorism. Meanwhile, international cooperation was being hindered by double standards, unilateralism, bullying and the use of fabricated human rights or humanitarian issues as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of States.

2. It was crucial to promote true multilateralism and a sense of community, in particular by leveraging the central role of the United Nations counter-terrorism entities to strengthen cooperation, promote consensus-building and facilitate coordinated action at the international and regional levels. Counter-terrorism efforts must be undertaken with respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States. Existing counter-terrorism treaties must be implemented, and the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be concluded as soon as possible. States should likewise fully implement the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. All prevention and deradicalization activities should be conducted in accordance with the rule of law.

3. His Government rejected the application of double standards and the instrumentalization and politicization of counter-terrorism. Any State that attempted to use terrorism for geopolitical gains would only harm itself. Terrorism should not be associated with any specific country, nationality or religion. In order to eliminate the root causes of terrorism, it would be necessary to implement economic, political, judicial and social strategies, including through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; uphold the principles of equality, respect and tolerance; and promote dialogue between States. Particular efforts should be made to combat cyberterrorism and the

financing of terrorism, address the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and prevent terrorists from taking advantage of the pandemic to incite others to terrorism.

4. The Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement was a dangerous terrorist organization on the United Nations sanctions list and had thousands of members operating in Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic. His Government therefore urged a certain country that had recently removed the Movement from its list of terrorist organizations in order to further its own political agenda, in a blatant display of double standards, to reverse its decision immediately, for the good of the international community. His Government also called on the Taliban to make a clean break with terrorism and urged the international community to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a haven for terrorists, by providing humanitarian assistance and supporting pandemic recovery, State-building and economic and social development in the country. China opposed terrorism in all its forms and would continue to participate in and contribute to international cooperation to eliminate the threat of international terrorism.

5. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that his country unequivocally condemned terrorism, including State terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motivation. Although Pakistan had succeeded in eradicating terrorist groups from its territory, it continued to face cross-border attacks financed, sponsored and supported by India. His Government demanded an immediate end to the State terrorism being perpetrated against the people of illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which had intensified since India had announced the change of status of Jammu and Kashmir and launched its “final solution” in August 2019. India had also funded and supported cross-border attacks against military and civilian targets in Pakistan by entities listed by the United Nations as terrorist organizations, including the attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange on 29 June 2020, the attack in Lahore on 23 June 2021 and the killing of Chinese and Pakistani engineers in Dasu on 14 July 2021. The National Security Adviser of India had publicly admitted that the country was providing financial and organizational support to mercenary terrorist organizations in order to destabilize Pakistan and hinder the country’s economic growth. Motivated by Hindu nationalism, the Bharatiya Janata Party-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Government was conducting a campaign of violence and intimidation against the large Muslim minority in the country. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh had previously been designated as a terrorist organization in India, and the international community should classify it as such. Eliminating international terrorism would require a

comprehensive approach that included addressing prolonged conflicts, foreign occupation and the denial of the right to self-determination in places such as Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine.

6. His delegation strongly condemned violent right-wing and xenophobic nationalism, extremism and terrorism directed against Muslims, which had been on the rise in certain parts of the world since the events of 11 September 2001. In that connection, it looked forward to the report requested by the General Assembly, in its resolution [75/291](#), on the work to be undertaken by the Secretary-General to develop a greater understanding of the motivations, objectives, organization and threat posed by groups carrying out terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief. The United Nations sanctions regime should be adjusted to take into account such new and emerging threats and end the stigmatization of Islam and Muslims. The transparency of the sanctions regime should be enhanced, including by strengthening the Office of the Ombudsperson to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. His delegation fully supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. It was also in favour of the adoption of a consensus-based comprehensive convention on international terrorism that clearly differentiated between acts of terrorism and legitimate struggles of peoples under foreign or colonial occupation to achieve self-determination. Any definition of terrorism in the comprehensive convention must reflect the new and emerging threats.

7. **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.

8. **Ms. Grosso** (United States of America) said that, 20 years after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the world still remembered those who had lost their lives and honoured the courage of those who had endangered their own lives to save others. Terrorism in all its forms

and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and all acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation. The United Nations played a critical role in strengthening the capacity of Member States to prevent and counter terrorism with respect for human rights and the rule of law. The killing of 13 United States citizens and nearly 200 Afghan civilians in a terrorist attack at the airport in Kabul in August 2021 had highlighted that terrorism was still a serious concern. Al-Qaida and ISIS had metastasized through branches and affiliates in Africa and Asia; racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists were using the Internet to spread their ideologies and encourage the perpetration of attacks; and States such as Iran continued to pursue their interests through terrorist proxies and partners, including Hizbullah. Efforts to counter terrorism were counterproductive when they violated the rule of law or were used as a pretext for stifling freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression or other human rights and fundamental freedoms. In that connection, her delegation strongly objected to the mass detention of Muslim Uighurs and other abuses in Xinjiang, China.

9. Her delegation was pleased that General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) reflected the threat of racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism, which was one of the biggest challenges currently facing the international community. Her Government was participating in multilateral efforts led by the United Nations and other entities to combat such extremism. In June 2021, the United States had issued its first national strategy for countering domestic terrorism, a longstanding threat in her country that had been highlighted by the attack on the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. on 6 January 2021.

10. The United States had recently joined the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online, pledging to pursue the aims of the Call while respecting reasonable levels of privacy and upholding the protections for freedom of speech and association enshrined in her country's Constitution. Her Government was strengthening and expanding its voluntary collaboration with private technology companies, which had a significant role to play in sharing information and identifying and removing terrorist and violent extremist propaganda. Member States should continue to work with all stakeholders, in particular young people, to build long-term resilience to terrorist messages by fostering critical thinking skills and disseminating positive narratives to counter propaganda.

11. It was regrettable that resolution [75/291](#) did not properly address the serious security and human rights

concerns associated with the detention of foreign terrorist fighters and members of their families in inhumane conditions at camps in Iraq and Syria. Many of the States that had placed a strong emphasis on human rights during the review process were refusing to address the dire humanitarian crisis involving their own citizens in detention camps. Repatriation, in combination with rehabilitation, reintegration and prosecution programmes, would prevent a resurgence of ISIS and the uncontrolled return of fighters to their countries of origin in the future. It was particularly important to repatriate the thousands of children currently held in the camps. Her delegation urged Member States to provide the necessary resources and technical assistance in that regard. As for the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, the United Nations must send united, unambiguous signals on terrorism to avoid undoing progress that had been made. Her delegation's full statement would be made available in the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations*.

12. **Mr. Fernandez De Soto Valderrama** (Colombia) said that terrorism was a threat to the economic, social and political stability of States. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. All terrorist acts were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, and countering terrorism was an ethical imperative. The work done during the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was evidence of the international community's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism.

13. The elimination of terrorism would require sources of revenue and supplies for terrorists to be cut off. It was particularly important to tackle drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, taking into account the constantly evolving dynamics of criminal activity and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was crucial to foster a sense of shared responsibility for combating terrorism and drug trafficking. Stakeholders should be provided with the necessary resources and means to combat money-laundering and other forms of terrorist financing, including through cyber capacity-building. Member States should also fulfil their asset-freeze obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, taking into account recommendations 6 and 7 of the Financial Action Task Force. With regard to corruption, a phenomenon that facilitated the financing and conduct of terrorist acts, his Government supported the implementation of the measures set out in the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption in 2021.

14. Efforts to eliminate terrorism must involve strengthening technical and operational cooperation, information exchange and judicial cooperation. All actions should be conducted in accordance with the rule of law and with respect for human rights, and civil society should be considered an important ally. Colombia was doing its part to combat terrorism but recognized that the only way to eliminate it completely was through a collective approach and joint efforts.

15. **Ms. de Souza Schmitz** (Brazil) said that her Government condemned terrorism 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.

16. The absence of a universally agreed definition of terrorism had almost prevented a consensus from being reached in the recent review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and continued to present an obstacle to the conclusion of a comprehensive convention that would bring much-needed unity and coherence to international efforts to eliminate 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. The Committee should consider changing its approach to the matter of the comprehensive convention, as the annual establishment of a working group to move the process forward had proved to be ineffective. The Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution [51/210](#) of 17 December 1996 could be reconvened to conduct the preparatory process, and a high-level conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations to generate the political will necessary to end the stalemate in the negotiations.

17. The General Assembly was the primary body within the United Nations for addressing international terrorism, since political, economic, legal and security factors had to be taken into account in counter-terrorism efforts. 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. To revitalize the work of the Committee, it would be worth reflecting on ways to improve its work on the topic of terrorism, including by avoiding overlap with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review process. Her delegation suggested that the Committee focus its deliberations on outstanding legal matters such

as the comprehensive convention; the definition of terrorism; and the prohibition of the use of force, except in self-defence, in the context of counter-terrorism. In that connection, her Government considered that exceptions to the prohibition of the use of force established in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations must be interpreted restrictively. On the specific issue of self-defence, the International Court of Justice had repeatedly indicated that the right to self-defence existed only between States. If counter-terrorism efforts were not conducted within the bounds of international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law, they would defeat their purpose and could even foster extremism conducive to terrorism.

18. **Mr. Arriola Ramírez** (Paraguay) said that his country's rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was enshrined in its domestic law and was a principle of its foreign policy. Paraguay was a party to 16 international counter-terrorism instruments and had a robust legislative and institutional framework for combating terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. His delegation welcomed the efforts of regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, but encouraged them to further enhance cooperation in that regard. The General Assembly should continue to be the primary forum for considering questions related to terrorism. His delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) and the commitment demonstrated by all delegations to achieving consensus during the review process. It also welcomed the emphasis given to important issues such as care for victims of terrorist attacks, the implications of new technology for counter-terrorism and the danger of communications technology being used to spread hate.

19. The best way to combat terrorism would be to address its root causes by promoting education, social justice and respect for diversity, and eliminating poverty and marginalization. International cooperation and coordination were also essential. His delegation therefore supported the establishment of the working group on measures to eliminate international terrorism, with a view to the finalization and eventual adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In that connection, it was important for the international community to agree on a complete and precise definition of terrorism.

20. **Mr. Segura Aragon** (El Salvador) said that his delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever

committed, as it was a serious threat to international peace and security, international development and the rule of law, and undermined human rights and fundamental freedoms. His Government was particularly concerned about the growing links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, which undermined social cohesion and had a particularly negative impact on children and youth. It had therefore adopted a special law against acts of terrorism, covering the activities of gangs that sought to usurp sovereign powers of the State and systematically and indiscriminately put the fundamental rights of the population at serious risk. An anti-money-laundering bill was being prepared, which would establish new offences, increase prison sentences for offenders and improve interagency coordination on the prevention, control and punishment of money-laundering.

21. His Government had given priority to the implementation of its territorial control plan, which was aimed at protecting the Salvadoran population by regaining control of territory seized by terrorist groups and gangs, preventing crime through the implementation of social measures and reconstructing the fabric of society. The security and social, economic and cultural development of the Salvadoran people were vital for social cohesion and the prevention of violence and behaviours conducive to terrorism. Initiatives were in place to provide opportunities for vulnerable children and youth. His Government had made it a priority to support victims of terrorism and transnational organized crime by ensuring that they had access to justice and psychological support.

22. At the international level, his delegation welcomed the Office of Counter-Terrorism's Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism and commended the Organization for its continued cooperation in Central America. The international community should continue to consider measures to eliminate international terrorism, bearing in mind that action was needed at both the international and national levels and must be implemented with full respect for the rule of law and human rights.

23. **Mr. Espinosa Cañizares** (Ecuador) said that his country strongly condemned all terrorist acts, by whomsoever and for whatever purposes committed, as they undermined international peace and security, human rights, democracy and the socioeconomic development of States, destabilizing the international community as a whole. Counter-terrorism efforts were legitimate only if they were conducted with respect for international law, including international humanitarian

law, and human rights. Ecuador was a party to 12 universal counter-terrorism instruments.

24. The violent acts perpetrated at his country's northern border in 2018 by irregular armed groups linked to transnational organized crime had highlighted that the scourge of terrorism could affect any country. Given the links between terrorism, organized crime and corruption, it was important to engage in effective cooperation on matters such as combating money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. While the international community had made significant progress over the past two decades in terms of addressing the root causes of terrorism, even greater cooperation was now required in the light of advances in the use of new technology by terrorists, which had been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Member States should have access to capacity-building on addressing the causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, such as inequality and limited access to education.

25. His delegation welcomed the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism (Counter-Terrorism Committee), the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in developing coherent lines of action to address the realities and needs of different regions and looked forward to their future work on the nexus between terrorism and organized crime. His delegation also welcomed the convening of the second Counter-Terrorism Week in 2021. Ecuador was committed to supporting the efforts of the working group established with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would enhance the transparency and effectiveness of the international community's efforts.

26. **Ms. Hackman** (Ghana) said that terrorism in the Sahel and West Africa was a threat to the territorial integrity of Member States and to the peace and stability needed for transformative socioeconomic development and economic integration in the region. While her country had not been a direct target of terrorism, it had not been immune to the far-reaching economic impact of terrorist activities in the region. Ghana unequivocally condemned terrorism and was committed to supporting counter-terrorism measures at all levels. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) and the Secretary-General's commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It also commended UNODC for the provision of capacity-building support, which had helped strengthen national security and counter-terrorism strategies.

27. The elimination of terrorism would require robust and integrated responses through international cooperation in the Security Council and other forums. The countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) continued to cooperate closely on border surveillance, information-gathering, intelligence-sharing, early warning systems, capacity-building and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. Ghana was a member of the Accra Initiative, an important counter-terrorism framework established by five States in 2017 in response to growing insecurity linked to violent extremism in the region. Partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations should be strengthened in order to facilitate the adoption of holistic, inclusive and effective counter-terrorism measures. Her delegation called on Member States to intensify their efforts to suppress and counter the financing of terrorism through both formal and informal channels. Her Government, which had pledged \$10 million to support security in the ECOWAS region, called for the mobilization of international funding to support the fight against terrorism and violent extremism around the world.

28. Terrorism would not be defeated through military efforts alone; a strategic balance between economic development and security measures was required. Approaches should take into account the needs of the people and reimagine the role of the State and security institutions in responding to emerging threats. Soft-power measures aimed at supporting stable democratic governance, reducing inequalities, creating opportunities and redistributing wealth would help address the root causes of terrorism. In that connection, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should form part of the broad approach to addressing terrorism.

29. **Mr. Arrocha Olabuenaga** (Mexico) said that his Government strongly and unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and reiterated the need for a comprehensive convention on terrorism. Abusive and illegal measures did nothing to combat terrorism and often spurred on terrorist groups. Article 51 of the Charter must not be abusively invoked to justify the use of force against non-State actors. Such overly broad interpretations went beyond the scope of the Article and the purview of the collective security system of the United Nations. Efforts to address terrorism must be in full compliance with international law, in particular international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and should address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, inequality, marginalization, unemployment, lack of development and limited access to education. Gender equality and the influence of notions of

masculinity should also be taken into account in strategies to prevent terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The rise in discrimination and violence stemming from intolerance and xenophobia gave cause for concern and should be addressed through measures to combat hate speech.

30. His Government had worked to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the national level, including by establishing legislative measures to address money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Mexican law drew a clear distinction between terrorist offences and other crimes. The COVID-19 pandemic had aggravated the structural causes of terrorism and led to frustration within the most vulnerable groups, in particular children and youth. Post-pandemic reconstruction of the social fabric would therefore be an important means of countering radicalization. States had a responsibility to ensure that victims of terrorism received justice, medical care and psychological services. Victims also had a crucial role to play in countering extremist narratives conducive to terrorism and building more resilient societies.

31. It was important to enforce restrictions on ownership of small arms and light weapons and to strengthen efforts to eliminate illicit trafficking in such weapons, which were being used in terrorist attacks with increasing frequency. Their capacity to cause significant loss of life in a very short time meant that they were essentially weapons of mass destruction.

32. **Mr. Amir** (Eritrea) said that his country unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism had increased and evolved significantly in recent decades. While it was a global phenomenon, its spread and effects were particularly severe in conflict zones, where terrorists could take advantage of power vacuums to further destabilize countries and societies. His delegation supported the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to ensure that it addressed emerging threats such as the misuse of technology for terrorist purposes. The Office of Counter-Terrorism and other United Nations entities also had a role to play in the implementation of a unified and coherent response to the threat through the implementation of the Strategy.

33. His Government had adopted a number of counter-terrorism laws, including in relation to money-laundering, established a financial intelligence unit and set aside budgetary funds to combat terrorism and organized crime. A firearms and explosives registry had long been in place. Eritrea was a State party to several

international and regional instruments, including the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection. While it was not yet a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, it had recently acceded to five instruments concerning matters relevant to the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

34. The countries of the Horn of Africa, where extremism and organized crime had existed for decades, must be free to set their own priorities, without external interference, in their joint endeavours to promote peace and stability in the region. The conclusion of bilateral and trilateral agreements between States in the region was a welcome development. Strong commitment, cooperation and coordination among the States of the subregion and other partners were indispensable for eliminating the conditions that allowed terrorism, human trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime to persist.

35. **Ms. Nguyen Quyen Thi Hong** (Viet Nam), expressing condolences to victims of terrorism and their families, said that her Government categorically condemned all acts of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purpose committed. The COVID-19 pandemic and other fragilities, such as unemployment, discrimination, hatred, xenophobia and injustice, were liable to be exploited by terrorists. In the face of the global threat of terrorism, the international community must maintain solidarity and unity and ensure that comprehensive approaches were adopted at the national, regional and international levels. The United Nations should have a coordinating role in that regard. It was important to increase synergies within the United Nations system and enhance the role of regional and subregional organizations, communities and other stakeholders. All counter-terrorism measures must be in compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, including human rights law and international humanitarian law. The root causes of terrorism, including social, political and economic inequality and injustice, must be addressed. It was also crucial to enhance the resilience of local communities to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism by eradicating poverty and promoting economic development and national reconciliation. The provision of technical assistance to Member States should continue to be a priority.

36. Her Government had taken a range of measures to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its various international

obligations to combat terrorism. It had made a particular effort to ensure that its comprehensive counter-terrorism legal framework was aligned with the Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism. The financing of terrorism by legal persons was criminalized under her country's Penal Code. At the international level, her Government had worked with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on capacity-building to counter the use of the Internet and digital technology by terrorists and had enhanced its legal framework governing mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, with assistance from UNODC. Viet Nam was a party to 15 universal treaties pertaining to counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime and had concluded a number of bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition. The success of the second Counter-Terrorism Week had demonstrated the strong commitment of all stakeholders to combating terrorism. Collective efforts in that regard should be guided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the outcome of the seventh review of the Strategy, as contained in General Assembly resolution [75/291](#).

37. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali) said that no region, country, religion, nationality or civilization was safe from violent extremist ideologies and terrorism. Terrorism had been behind many deaths and injuries and the destruction of public and private property in Mali since 2012. That very day, more than a dozen Malian soldiers had been killed in a terrorist attack in central Mali. The social cohesion that had long been a characteristic of Malian society had been severely affected by the security situation. His Government remained committed to working with its partners to address the complex challenges, protect the people and their property and establish security throughout the territory. The international community must take a strong and united stance against terrorism and violent extremism, with the United Nations playing an important role. The Office of Counter-Terrorism should provide more support to Member States and subregional organizations in the development and implementation of tailored counter-terrorism strategies. The level of tragedy faced on a daily basis by populations, States and national and international forces on the ground was reflected by the fact that there were 55 universal and regional instruments addressing terrorism and cross-border crime.

38. Convinced that no country could eliminate transnational crime on its own, members of the Group of Five for the Sahel were combating terrorism in the region through their Joint Force, in coordination with other forces in the region. The Group continued to

request that its Joint Force be given a robust mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter and receive predictable and sustainable financing. While regional security measures were important, terrorism could only be completely eliminated through a global approach that took into account the root causes of violent extremism. For its part, his Government had adopted 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 and intrafaith 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 youth. 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. His Government had also adopted a national strategy to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and a national unit for the processing of financial data had been operational since June 2008.

39. 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.

40. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his Government categorically condemned terrorist acts, whatever their motivation and wherever they were committed. As a responsible member of the international community, his country remained firmly committed to efforts to rid the world of terrorism. International terrorism was one of the greatest threats to international peace and security, as it was aimed at undermining territorial integrity, destabilizing legitimate Governments and disrupting constitutional order.

41. His country had been a victim of terrorism in recent years, but the perpetrators had attempted to hide the seriousness of the attacks from the international community. The Governments of the United States and its allies had even taken advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of committing terrorist acts against the Venezuelan people. The use of terrorism and violence to attempt to overthrow legitimate Governments must clearly not be tolerated. His delegation had provided the Security Council with publicly available evidence that a dangerous transnational organized crime network was organizing,

from the United States, training and funding for Colombian mercenaries to commit acts of aggression – including armed attacks, acts of terrorism and assassinations – in third countries, with a view to facilitating the toppling of their Governments and undermining the constitutional basis of those States. The network was responsible for the recent assassination of the President of Haiti, which had been carried out by Colombian mercenaries, with the knowledge of the Colombian security and intelligence agencies. It had also been behind the failed attempt, by mercenaries trained in Colombia and supported by the Government of that country, to assassinate the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. By protecting those who funded and carried out such attacks, the Governments of Colombia and the United States were violating Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). His delegation hoped that the network would soon be dismantled and that the warlike activities of Colombia, which threatened the peace and security of Latin America and the Caribbean, would come to an end once and for all.

42. In order to eliminate terrorism, Member States should address its root causes, engage in stronger and more coordinated cooperation, fulfil their commitments and obligations to the letter and refrain from applying double standards or using counter-terrorism efforts as a pretext for advancing their own political agendas or neocolonial ambitions. The trend towards unilateralism, together with the compilation of arbitrary lists of States that were supposedly supporting terrorism, undermined international cooperation. Cyberattacks, electromagnetic attacks and the misuse of new technology such as artificial intelligence and unmanned aerial vehicles were emerging threats that warranted attention and coordinated action.

43. **Mr. Konate** (Burkina Faso) said that while the international counter-Da'esh coalition had helped bring the security situation under control in the Middle and Near East, people across West Africa were living in constant fear of terrorist attacks. Conditions in the Sahel had deteriorated in recent years, with unprecedented violence by armed terrorist groups severely undermining development efforts and causing loss of life and displacement.

44. To address that situation, his Government had undertaken a number of institutional and judicial reforms. A national observatory had been established to prevent and address community conflicts, and a national strategy to prevent radicalization and combat violent extremism had been adopted in May 2021. In August 2021, the specialized judicial unit for terrorism cases had conducted its first proceedings. An anti-money-

laundering and counter-financing of terrorism mechanism was also in place. Convinced that terrorism fed on poverty, his Government was implementing programmes that took into account the links between counter-terrorism and sustainable development. A territorial development strategy had been in place since April 2020, and a community project for the revitalization and stabilization of the Sahel would commence in the last quarter of 2021.

45. His delegation called for strengthened cooperation among stakeholders to combat the complex threat posed by terrorism, which no country could overcome on its own. The asymmetrical nature of the threat and the porous borders between countries were complicating factors in the Sahel region. His delegation welcomed the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and would appreciate further partnerships to ensure the execution of effective measures to combat terrorism in the region. His Government was also committed to multilateral and bilateral efforts to combat terrorism and ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

46. **Mr. Rittener** (Switzerland) said that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 had horrified the world, destroyed thousands of lives and profoundly changed societies. The development and spread of the terrorist threat had made the international security situation increasingly unpredictable. His delegation condemned recent terrorist attacks and supported efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims.

47. Terrorist acts greatly affected the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, respect for international law, in particular human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law, was a pillar of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and was also key to the counter-terrorism and foreign policies of Switzerland. A preventive approach was essential to eliminating the underlying conditions that led individuals to become radicalized and commit terrorist acts. Only coordinated engagement by all actors would eradicate terrorism; civil society must therefore be included in the efforts of the United Nations and of States. He commended the Organization on its continuous engagement, particularly in coordinating common efforts.

48. During the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Switzerland had advocated a holistic, balanced approach to the implementation of the Strategy's pillars and had emphasized the need to strengthen pillars I and IV. His delegation welcomed the strengthening of the provisions on international humanitarian law. Although

wording on the role of civil society in the implementation of the Strategy had been added, more progress was needed in that area. On the initiative of Norway and Switzerland, a new paragraph on strengthening the mechanisms for evaluation of the Strategy, including its impact, had been added. He regretted the weakness of some of the provisions adopted, in particular the lack of detail on the human rights-based approach under pillar IV.

49. **Ms. Laso Geldres** (Peru) said that her country condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, in all their forms and manifestations. Democracy was based on the duty of rule-of-law States to protect fundamental freedoms and human rights, and therefore excluded violence, in particular terrorism, which was a denial of human dignity. In taking measures to eradicate violence and terrorism, the United Nations must respect international law and promote human rights. Terrorism was not a means of social transformation; violence resulted only in destruction and human rights violations, and its victims were the poorest and the most dispossessed.

50. The eradication of terrorism required social cohesion, pluralism, respect for others, a plurality of ideas and religions, a dialogue of civilizations, and the reduction of inequality, racism, exclusion and poverty. More inclusive societies must therefore be established by implementing national development policies in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 1, on ending poverty, and Goal 16, on peace, justice and strong institutions.

51. Despite military defeats, losses of territory and the failure of attempts at expansion, terrorist movements remained a threat to international peace and security. Terrorism must be fought not only by cultural, political and military means, but also by preventing terrorists from using social networks and the Internet, and by fighting cybercrime through international cooperation, while respecting the freedom of information and expression online. Member States must restrict the financial capacity of terrorists by criminalizing the provision or collection of funds to carry out terrorist acts, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#). The links between terrorism and organized crime must be broken; financial intelligence, customs transparency and control, and cooperation must be enhanced to combat terrorist financing mechanisms and the associated criminal activities, such as trafficking in drugs, arms, cultural property and natural resources. Peru was committed to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the resumption of negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

52. **Mr. Mike** (Hungary) said that the geopolitical environment in which efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism were taking place had already been complex prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the social isolation and political and economic pressures resulting from the pandemic were liable to exacerbate existing grievances, undermine counter-terrorism measures and heighten terrorist threats, especially in conflict zones, where terrorism was most prevalent and pre-existing problems related to governance, unrest, and institutional capacity hindered the response.

53. Fighting terrorism was primarily a national responsibility, but international and regional cooperation was essential. The growing online presence of terrorists had become an even larger security threat than previously, because new virtual platforms had become available to terrorists as a result of the pandemic.

54. Despite the pandemic, Hungary continued to safeguard its security, adapt to new challenges and protect itself against old ones. Strengthening international and regional cooperation against terrorism was a cornerstone of its foreign and security policy. Since its overarching goal was to find viable ways of combating terrorism and violent extremism, it contributed to the stabilization efforts, including military missions, of various international organizations, and was an active member of the international counter-Da'esh coalition. To counter the online presence of terrorists and violent extremists, Hungary had joined the Christchurch Call to Action in September 2019. Through the Hungary Helps programme, it had provided \$43 million in direct humanitarian and development assistance to the Middle East and Africa to help local stabilization efforts in conflict zones. Local stability would reduce illegal immigration and the related risks to Europe.

55. Hungary supported initiatives to understand the ideological roots of terrorism. In November 2019, in preparation for the second Counter-Terrorism Week, it had hosted a high-level regional conference in Budapest, with participants from Member States and international, regional and civil society organizations, to examine strategies to address the conditions conducive to violent extremism, particularly in the Western Balkans, whose stability and Euro-Atlantic integration was a priority of his Government. As mentioned in General Assembly resolution [75/291](#), a regional programme office of the Office of Counter-Terrorism was based in Hungary. His Government had also provided financial support for the establishment, in Rabat, of the Office's programme office for counter-terrorism and training in Africa. The Office was an

important global actor in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism; its activities should therefore be better funded.

56. He thanked Oman and Spain for facilitating the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and ensuring the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#). Terrorism was both a local and a global challenge. Upholding the spirit of the Strategy and fostering international cooperation would help Member States to confront a common enemy.

57. **Mr. Pieris** (Sri Lanka) said that terrorism undermined everything the United Nations was trying to achieve. Although it had been on the Organization's agenda for years, the collective response was hindered by the varying priorities of Member States, whose inability to conclude negotiations on the comprehensive convention for over a decade showed how divided they were. States must unite to defeat the global menace of terrorism, which called for a strong multilateral response. They must make it clear that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, would not be tolerated. The United Nations played an important role in coordinating the global response to terrorism. His delegation supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and acknowledged the importance of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other United Nations bodies. The Organization should unselectively draw on Member States' national experiences to confront terrorism, without penalizing States that had defeated it. Those States included Sri Lanka, which, after experiencing terrorism for nearly 30 years, had defeated it on its soil. All terrorist acts were criminal, regardless of their motivation, and were attacks on everyone. It was high time for Member States to act in solidarity to combat the menace, without treating certain terrorist acts as justifiable, or condemning some terrorists while turning a blind eye to others.

58. Modern terrorists did not use traditional tactics and were highly sophisticated. Their use of social media to spread their ideology and recruit young people, their attacks on soft targets and their international networks with links to organized crime were well known. A new dimension, however, was their use of educated, affluent people with impeccable backgrounds to raise funds and achieve their objectives. The tools that terrorists used to infiltrate people's hearts were the very tools that the United Nations promoted. In sharing intelligence, databases and expertise, Member States must take into account such developments and pool their resources to counter the networks' propagation of hatred and racism.

59. While terrorist tactics were brutal, those fighting terrorism must not embrace such lawlessness and must foster their common humanity. Sri Lanka was committed to international cooperation to combat terrorism in a multifaceted way. Terrorism called for a global response that was radical but humanely civil. The fight against terrorism had made the world safer, but a more direct strategy was needed to counter the threat without harming national sovereignty and human rights. More would be gained by striving for harmonious coexistence than by giving in to rage and ignorance. As terrorism was a global phenomenon, policymakers must maximize international cooperation without compromising national security, particularly in combating terrorist activity that was sponsored or countenanced by States.

60. **Ms. Sugihara** (Japan) said that, in order to prepare for the counter-terrorism landscape after the COVID-19 pandemic, the international community would require a reinvigorated multilateral response, as the Secretary-General had emphasized in his recent report on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) provided unity and guidance for Member States' collective efforts.

61. Japan had emphasized the importance of the rule of law in its contributions to global counter-terrorism efforts. In March 2021, despite the pandemic, it had hosted the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, organized by UNODC. The Congress had adopted the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda, which would serve as a basis for Member States to promote the rule of law and international cooperation in counter-terrorism.

62. To stop the cycle of violence, terrorists must be socially and economically integrated. Japan supported the initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to develop prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies in South-East Asia; the related outcome document would help other Member States to implement their own strategies.

63. Japan supported the programme of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to improve the investigative skills of law enforcement officials in Asia through the use of open-source information and awareness of terrorists' exploitation of emerging technologies, while emphasizing the importance of due process and human rights.

64. The suppression of maritime crime and terrorism were essential to peace and stability at sea. Japan had spared no effort in strengthening the capacities of maritime law enforcement bodies in Asia and Africa,

including by contributing \$26 million and technical assistance to the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme. Japan would protect the rules-based maritime order through its follow-up to resolution [75/291](#), in which the General Assembly stressed the need to counter terrorism to enhance maritime security.

65. Unity was essential to counter-terrorism in uncertain times. Japan appreciated the international cooperation that, in addition to robust domestic counter-terrorism measures, had allowed it to hold the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2021.

66. **Mr. Leal Matta** (Guatemala) said that terrorism was a global phenomenon that posed a grave threat to international peace and security, undermined democracy and economic development, and created instability.

67. The second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held in June 2021, had helped United Nations bodies to take the lead in the fulfilment of counter-terrorism mandates issued by the General Assembly and had improved coordination within the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force, with a view to the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As a result of the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#), Member States' counter-terrorism capacities would continue to be strengthened.

68. The international legal framework existed to prevent the linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism that fostered the use of financial assets for pernicious ends. His delegation therefore supported the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the relevant Security Council resolutions. The failure to reach agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism hampered the international community's response to that scourge; States should put aside their differences on the matter to address terrorist acts, which affected everyone equally. Cooperation should be improved at all levels to promote high-quality education and religious and cultural tolerance, better protect soft targets, strengthen States' capacity to prevent terrorists from obtaining materials for the production of weapons of massive destruction and prepare for an attack involving such weapons, encourage the sharing of information and good practices, and support the victims of terrorist acts. Guatemala unequivocally condemned terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purpose committed.

69. **Ms. Bhat** (India) said that terrorism was spreading into new areas and terrorists had gained access to drones, virtual currencies, encrypted communications and other new technologies. Isolation, distress and economic uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic had made the world more susceptible to radicalizing narratives and violent extremist propaganda. Her delegation condemned acts of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, without exception. Such acts could never be justified, regardless of the motivation and of wherever, whenever and by whomsoever they were committed. There were no good terrorists and, since terrorists, wherever they were, were a threat to the whole world, all Member States must participate in combating terrorism collectively. She therefore welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#); the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a common operational approach to those efforts. During the seventh review of the Strategy, her delegation had contributed constructively to the negotiations, especially with regard to strengthening the provisions on countering the financing of terrorism, preventing the misuse of emerging technologies, upholding the rights of victims, providing the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture with more financial resources and strengthening Member States' obligations to prevent terrorist activities. Member States should take effective measures to implement the Strategy.

70. Action would fail unless it was taken in a timely fashion. In 1996, India had piloted a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. States must unify their efforts to adopt such a convention, which would serve as a law enforcement instrument to strengthen the existing framework of global counter-terrorism conventions, and the United Nations should do more to achieve its early finalization. She hoped that the recommendation of the General Assembly, in its resolution [75/145](#), that the Sixth Committee establish a working group to finalize the process would result in the completion of the task.

71. Her delegation urged the United Nations to collaborate in its normative efforts with the Financial Action Task Force, which was essential to global standard-setting. The Task Force should continue to identify and remedy weaknesses in anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism frameworks. As a member of the Task Force, India regularly conducted national risk assessments to identify terrorists' methods for attracting, moving or using funds. Through those assessments, it had made great progress in implementing the Task Force's recommendations, and it was upgrading its financial intelligence network to refer

terrorist financing cases to law enforcement agencies more quickly.

72. She was dismayed that Pakistan had once again misused the Committee to repeat ad nauseam its litany of lies. The biggest perpetrator and supporter of terrorism was masquerading as its victim. She condemned the Pavlovian response of Pakistan to any mention of India, and rejected all its allegations and insinuations. Jammu and Kashmir was and would always be part of India. Her delegation called on Pakistan to stop the ethnic cleansing of its own minorities, including Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and Buddhists.

73. The United Nations system must summon the political will to combat terrorism, and must not allow terrorism to be justified or terrorists glorified. The working methods of the committees dealing with sanctions and counter-terrorism must be reformed to improve transparency, accountability and effectiveness. Exclusivist thinking must be discouraged, since it facilitated radicalization and terrorist recruitment by breeding fear, mistrust and hatred. Individuals and entities must be included in and removed from the lists maintained by United Nations sanctions committees on the basis of objective criteria rather than political or religious considerations. The links between terrorism and transnational organized crime must be addressed. Immediate attention must be given to the adequate funding of United Nations counter-terrorism bodies from the regular budget.

74. **Mr. Altarsha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Certain well-known States had trained, armed and financed terrorist fighters and facilitated their travel to the Syrian Arab Republic, where they had brought destruction and slaughter. Terrorism was not, however, confined to any given country: it posed a threat to all States and peoples, undermined humanitarian values and flagrantly violated international law. Nor was it the product of any specific region, religion or race: it arose when young people were ruthlessly exploited and indoctrinated to further the agendas of a handful of States. In addition to terrorist groups, the perpetrators included certain States that practised economic terrorism, in the form of illegal unilateral coercive measures, and media terrorism, in the form of incitement and misinformation campaigns.

75. His Government had been among the first to call for an international conference to agree on a definition of terrorism, and it had engaged proactively with all international and regional counter-terrorism efforts. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to most of the

international counter-terrorism instruments, not to mention numerous bilateral agreements. A range of laws had been adopted making it a crime to establish, lead, join or fund a terrorist group, or to encourage or prepare for terrorist acts. A special counter-terrorism court, whose working methods were consistent with international standards, had been established in 2012.

76. Counter-terrorism efforts must be enforced across the board without double standards. It was essential to cut off terrorists' sources of funding, secure borders against terrorist movements, confront media incitement to terrorism, and implement fully the relevant counter-terrorism resolutions. The home countries and countries of residence of foreign terrorist fighters and their families must assume their responsibility by repatriating, prosecuting and reintegrating those individuals. Counter-terrorism efforts should be based on the principles of national ownership and respect for the sovereignty and independence of States. Misinterpretations of Article 51 of the Charter must not be condoned; counter-terrorism could not be invoked as a pretext to intervene in the internal affairs of Member States, or to attack or occupy parts of their territory.

77. **Mr. Edokpa** (Nigeria) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#), in which the Assembly addressed the exacerbation of extremist narratives and hate speech; emerging threats such as the misuse of technology for terrorist purposes and the misuse of the Internet, particularly social media, for recruitment; and the importance of upholding human rights in the fight against terrorism. Nigeria commended the Office of Counter-Terrorism on hosting the second Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2021, supported the Office's work and called for the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It welcomed the establishment of the Office's regional programme offices in Nairobi and Rabat to provide counter-terrorism training and capacity-building in Africa.

78. Terrorism was a serious menace to international peace and security. It destabilized the structures of governance, with adverse effects on development. Nigeria was no stranger to the activities of terrorists, in particular Boko Haram. His Government had curtailed that group's heinous atrocities through a national counter-terrorism strategy, enacted in 2016, and was keeping it under continuous surveillance. The strategy, together with a policy framework and national action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism, enacted in 2017, had improved the capacity of Nigeria to counter the threat.

79. Nigeria had taken the lead in funding the Multinational Joint Task Force, the counter-terrorism formation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. The Force improved tactical cooperation in the fight against Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province.

80. Nigeria had established national laws to bring the perpetrators of terrorism and related offences to account and foster engagement between the National Assembly, the judiciary, national security agencies, local stakeholders and international partners to strengthen criminal justice measures for preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. Nigeria was committed to prosecuting all perpetrators of terrorism, including the 5,000 Boko Haram fighters who had surrendered since August 2021. It had established a centre for the control of small arms and light weapons, a commission for the coordination of cybersecurity and a financial intelligence unit to confront terrorism and insecurity.

81. The protracted Boko Haram insurgency had displaced millions of people, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development had improved coordination with international partners and non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian support to displaced persons returning to the north-east of the country. As Boko Haram lost territory, resources and fighters, humanitarian and developmental responses were essential to preventing its resurgence. He thanked donors for their support and encouraged the international community to help rebuild local communities.

82. The increasing number of mass kidnappings of students from schools posed a threat to education and discouraged school attendance. To protect students from violence, the military had built posts near schools. Temporary learning spaces had been built to provide uninterrupted access to education, particularly during the pandemic. Nigeria was committed to the Safe Schools initiative, on which it would host the fourth international conference in October 2021.

83. Despite the pandemic, Nigeria had enhanced its cooperation with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in the area of capacity-building, and continued to work closely with all United Nations counter-terrorism entities. In October 2021, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate would conduct, on behalf of that Committee, a hybrid follow-up visit to Nigeria to assess the country's implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and discuss the facilitation of technical assistance.

84. The war against terrorism could be won only through the resolve of Member States. Nigeria condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and all terrorist acts, including those on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace, and determined to condemn violent extremism.

85. **Ms. Gohiwar Aryal** (Nepal) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had ravaged lives and livelihoods by curtailing economic activities, restricting access to education, increasing unemployment, and deepening poverty and inequalities. The disruption had resulted in economic hardship, ignited frustration, mistrust, and anger, and further jeopardized the socioeconomic, political and cultural environment in regions that were already facing intercommunal tensions. That situation was conducive to terrorism and made counter-terrorism more challenging. Governments and the international community must therefore remain focused and allocate more resources in response to the humanitarian crisis and the pandemic.

86. Terrorism was a long-standing threat to international peace and security. Acts of terrorism caused enormous loss of human life and property, and decimated the trust and understanding that bound humanity. Terrorism was a global phenomenon that was not associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Terrorists gained influence when migrants were vulnerable, young people were unemployed, ideologues became extremists and religion became intolerant. Member States must cooperate multilaterally to address the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism, end the menace of terrorism and make the world a better place.

87. As the birthplace of Gautam Buddha, Nepal believed in tolerance, harmony and coexistence. It condemned any act of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purposes committed. Its foreign policy was guided by amity with all and enmity with none, and it did not allow its territory to be used against any other country. Through its domestic institutional and legal counter-terrorism frameworks, it maintained a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and violent extremism.

88. Nepal had met its obligations under the seven international counter-terrorism instruments to which it was a party. It worked closely with the Financial Action Task Force to prevent the financing of terrorism and had prepared a national risk assessment on money-laundering and terrorist financing in 2020. It regularly published United Nations updates to sanctions lists, and

had adopted laws on mutual legal assistance and extradition to cooperate in the fight against transnational criminal activities.

89. Developing countries needed financial and technological capacity-building assistance in preventing and combating terrorism; intelligence-sharing was also essential in that regard. She commended the United Nations on its comprehensive multilateral counter-terrorism architecture. UNODC was providing Nepal with technical assistance and capacity-building for the management of criminal assets. Nepal contributed to peacekeeping operations and stood ready to work with the international community in the global fight against terrorism.

90. Nepal, which had incorporated the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in its national policies and frameworks, welcomed the seventh review of the Strategy and the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) by consensus. Nepal also welcomed the second United Nations High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism, held in 2021, and called for the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism to be concluded as soon as possible.

91. **Mr. Knyazyan** (Armenia) said that Armenia had provided information on its efforts to fight terrorism, including in relation to the relocation of foreign terrorist fighters to the region, for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism ([A/76/201](#)). The crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic – in particular its socioeconomic impact, the global lockdown, and the rise of hate, xenophobia and polarization – had created conditions conducive to radicalization and the recruitment of terrorists, especially in societies radicalized by State-led policies that promoted hatred on ethnic and religious grounds and the dehumanization of whole nations. Such incitement provided fertile soil for the seeds of extremism and terrorism, increased the threat of racially or ethnically motivated terrorism and heightened the vulnerability of religious sites and cultural monuments.

92. The misuse by terrorists of information and communications technology and social media was alarming. The international community must prevent the malicious use of the cyberdomain for terrorist purposes by addressing hate speech targeting ethnic and religious groups.

93. From September to November 2020, thousands of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries had been used as proxies in the large-scale military aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh. The recruitment of fighters from the Middle East and their transfer to Azerbaijan had

been documented by several countries' law enforcement agencies, reported by independent observers and media outlets, and reflected in a November 2020 statement of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Azerbaijan and its external supporters were directly responsible for sponsoring the flow of international terrorists to the region, in violation of numerous United Nations resolutions, and turning Azerbaijan into a safe harbour for terrorists, whose presence in the region could lead to the proliferation of terrorist networks in neighbouring countries.

94. The commitment of Armenia to supporting global efforts to eliminate international terrorism was reflected in the many measures that it had taken to improve border and customs security, combat money-laundering and terrorist financing, and support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant Security Council resolutions and other counter-terrorism commitments. The Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other United Nations bodies must ensure that the Organization's response to the new threats was efficient and integrated and help Member States to honour their counter-terrorism commitments.

95. The adoption of resolution [75/291](#), in which the General Assembly expressed concern at the growing involvement of foreign terrorist fighters in conflict zones, would advance efforts to eradicate terrorism. Security Council sanctions committees were important in holding terrorists to account, assessing the evolving threat in different regions and monitoring Member States' compliance with sanctions. Cooperation with such regional organizations as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Council of Europe, including through the sharing of best practices and capacity-building, was essential. The twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) was an opportunity to identify challenges and recommit to cooperation in combating terrorism. Since no country was immune to terrorism, the international community should stand united to counter terrorism in all its manifestations.

96. **Mr. Khandamishvili** (Georgia) said that Georgia condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated threats related to terrorism and violent extremism. Heightened international resolve and inclusive multilateral cooperation were required to address traditional and non-traditional security threats, and his delegation

therefore welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 75/291. Georgia had made outsized contributions to the fight against terrorism, including through the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. International efforts to address the root causes of terrorism and to focus on prevention must now be redoubled.

97. While the direct impact of terrorism in Georgia was assessed as low, no country was immune from what was a truly global threat to international peace and security. His Government was therefore developing coordinated responses to the continuously transforming landscape of terrorism. To counter terrorism at the national level, it had upgraded the legislative framework, taken law enforcement measures, and ensured effective national, bilateral, regional and international coordination. In the area of prevention and threat reduction, it was updating its national strategy and related action plan on the fight against terrorism, and was drafting a new counter-terrorism strategy, in cooperation with relevant agencies and civil society, to combat evolving threats. In 2019, Georgia had established a legal mechanism for the suppression of money-laundering and terrorist financing. It had also approved a national risk assessment report, in which terrorist financing risks in the country were assessed as low, and a related action plan.

98. The progress made by Georgia in countering money-laundering and terrorist financing had been assessed by the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism, of which Georgia was a member, during an on-site visit to Tbilisi in 2019. In September 2020, in the mutual evaluation report based on the assessment, the Committee of Experts had stated that Georgia had achieved a substantial level of effectiveness in investigating and prosecuting terrorist financing.

99. The illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia by the Russian Federation prevented his Government from carrying out its activities throughout the territory of Georgia. The occupied regions were beyond his Government's control and inaccessible to international monitoring mechanisms, including United Nations bodies and the European Union Monitoring Mission, despite the Mission's clear mandate to access those regions. As a result, the grave security, human rights and humanitarian situation in those regions created fertile ground for illicit activities, including the spread of terrorism, and posed a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. He called on the Russian Federation to give international monitoring mechanisms unhindered and

immediate access to the Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, and to meet its obligations under the European Union-mediated ceasefire agreement of August 2008. Against the backdrop of the challenges posed by that foreign occupation, his Government was committed to using all national, regional and international mechanisms and implementing the policies required to fight the common threat of terrorism.

100. **Mr. Liu Yang** (China), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the United States had abused the platform of the Committee and levelled baseless accusations against China regarding Xinjiang. China categorically rejected those accusations, which were groundless and completely wrong. Xinjiang suffered deeply from terrorism and extremism. Thousands of violent terrorist incidents had occurred there since the 1990s. The issues related to Xinjiang concerned not human rights, ethnicities or religions but counter-terrorism, anti-secession and deradicalization. China had taken a series of preventive counter-terrorism and deradicalization measures that drew on the experience of the international community. It had practised a concept advocated by the United Nations, namely, the use of development education and other resources to contain extremist ideologies. The measures had been fully in line with the principles and spirit of a series of international counter-terrorism resolutions, including those related to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and had been intended to eradicate the breeding ground of terrorism and extremism. Positive results had been achieved; in the previous four years, not one case of violence and terrorism had occurred in Xinjiang. That was the best way of protecting the basic rights – such as the rights to life, health and development – of all ethnic groups, including Uighurs.

101. A lie was a lie, even if it was repeated a thousand times. The political manoeuvring of the United States in the name of human rights, and that country's attempt to contain the development of China through issues involving Xinjiang, was not popular and would not succeed. Much remained to be done in the international fight against terrorism, and all countries needed cooperation rather than confrontation. His delegation advised the United States to stop spreading rumours, end its smear campaign, abandon double standards and participate constructively in international counter-terrorism cooperation.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.