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Chair: Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar)*later:* Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt)

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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. **Ms. Mudallali** (Lebanon) said that the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in terms of exacerbating grievances and inequalities, which terrorist and violent extremist groups sought to exploit, had been further amplified as a result of the disparities associated with the global access to COVID-19 vaccines; hence the importance of the comprehensive approach to preventing and countering the terrorist threat set out in the mutually reinforcing four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Lebanon welcomed the consensual adoption of the seventh review of the Strategy and was committed to its implementation. In tackling the root causes of terrorism, it was essential to promote inclusive societies, foster socioeconomic opportunities, the empowerment of women and youth and respect for human rights, and resolve protracted conflicts through greater international cooperation and solidarity.

2. In the midst of a financial, social and humanitarian crisis, Lebanon was grateful for the help of the United Nations and international partners. Her delegation thanked those countries that had provided support for the Lebanese armed forces and security forces, which had been severely affected by the current crisis, and had helped to alleviate the humanitarian consequences for the population.

3. Her Government firmly condemned all terrorist acts, wherever they were committed. Terrorism could not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group, and in no way should it be equated with the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation or exercise self-determination, which was rooted in international law.

4. Lebanon had adopted a national public terrorist list in line with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), as well as regulations to implement associated asset freezing requirements. Recently, the Special Investigation Commission – a Lebanese financial intelligence unit whose role was to fight money-laundering and the financing of terrorism – had issued guidance on the implementation of financial measures connected with Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001). It was preparing a national counter-terrorism strategy based on prevention, protection, security and response, which would complement its 2018 national strategy on the prevention of violent extremism.

5. Lebanon was determined to see the Special Tribunal for Lebanon complete its work in 2022 and was

grateful to the United Nations and those countries that had supported the Tribunal since its establishment. Justice was key to promoting accountability, bringing relief for the victims and their families and ending impunity.

6. **Ms. Betachew Birhanu** (Ethiopia) said that the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks had brought to the forefront the perils of terrorism, which some countries, including her own, had long experienced. In 2001, Ethiopia had radically changed the way it administered immigration, financial transactions, trade and all other internal and inter-State interactions. It had also introduced a number of preventive and punitive measures to combat terrorism.

7. Terrorism was a criminal act that could not be justified by any cause. In the absence of a universally agreed definition, the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism remained the only consensus document with a definition of that crime.

8. Unfortunately, mutually beneficial cooperation in combating domestic and regional terror groups had not yet been achieved. Although it was the primary responsibility of each State to identify and address terrorist actions that threatened its security, a balanced international cooperation regime without double standards was needed. Due regard must also be given to the individual experience and decisions of each country and region.

9. Ethiopia had taken measures to prevent and combat terrorism by enacting and periodically reviewing its domestic laws to respond to the dynamic nature of terrorism and meet the related human rights obligations. Her Government had also adopted relevant counter-terrorism conventions and made advances in the area of financial security. Recognizing the strategic shortcomings identified by the national risk assessment in 2016, it had updated its laws to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and Ethiopia was now compliant with the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations.

10. **Mr. Mikhaylov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported the outcomes of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Despite diverging views on certain aspects of counter-terrorism, it had been possible to maintain a consensus on the Strategy and its four pillars. The international community must continue its joint efforts and put the Strategy's provisions into practice. The Russian Federation continued to advocate the creation of a broad counter-terrorism front with the participation of all States and with the United Nations playing a

leading coordinating role, based on international law and effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, without politicization or double standards. The Russian Federation actively supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), which offered broad possibilities for enhancing international counter-terrorism cooperation.

11. In the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had stressed the problem of the supply of weapons to terrorist organizations. Terrorist groups in different parts of the world continued to obtain arms from outside sponsors, which enabled them to challenge States' armed forces. The objective of disrupting the transfer of arms to terrorist groups must be given close attention by the United Nations, its specialized bodies and the international community as a whole.

12. Foreign terrorist fighters also continued to be a pressing problem. Following its defeat, ISIL had mutated into an extensive network of underground cells, whose branches continued to spread throughout the world. At the core of that development were former foreign terrorist fighters who returned to their countries of origin or went elsewhere. They benefited from persisting differences of opinion in the international community on how to address terrorism and the fact that not all States had adopted adequate legal and law enforcement measures at the national level.

13. To meet the threat of Al-Qaida, which continued to have considerable military, financial and technological potential, closer, good-faith cooperation was necessary on questions of mutual legal assistance, extradition and timely sharing of information on terrorists' movements.

14. Criminal prosecution should be based on the principle "extradite or prosecute", with the ultimate goal of ensuring that terrorists did not go unpunished. His delegation did not agree with the tendency of western States to give priority to a human-rights and gender-based approach to aspects of counter-terrorism or questions of rehabilitation and reintegration, to the detriment of the principle of accountability.

15. Also troubling was the imposition by some States of non-consensual concepts, such as "countering violent extremism" or a "rules-based order". That diluted the international legal basis of efforts to combat terrorism and might result in its fragmentation. Other States would do well to bear in mind that the foundation for a rules-based order was the Charter of the United Nations.

16. **Mr. Lakomov** (Ukraine) said that the United Nations played an important role in global efforts to suppress international terrorism and promote

international cooperation in countering terrorism. His delegation welcomed the consensus adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in which it reaffirmed its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, focused on tackling the root causes and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and sought to strengthen States' counter-terrorism capacity.

17. Ukraine remained fully committed to combating terrorism and violent extremism. At its initiative, the Security Council had adopted resolution [2341 \(2017\)](#), the first-ever resolution on the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks.

18. As one of the sponsors of General Assembly resolution [72/165](#) on the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, as well as a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Ukraine remained in solidarity with victims of terrorism and continued to advocate full respect for their human rights and freedoms, as well as their recovery and resilience. All perpetrators, organizers, mentors and sponsors of acts of terrorism, whoever they might be, must be brought to justice. Unfortunately, some countries had integrated terrorism into their State policy, which had already led to flagrant violations of international law. The attempted annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the ongoing armed conflict in the Donbas region and the related occupation of Ukrainian sovereign territory by Russia had already caused irreparable damage to the Ukrainian people, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties, and nearly two million internally displaced persons.

19. Using terrorism as one of the tools of its hybrid aggression against Ukraine, the Russian Federation had violated most of the fundamental obligations existing under international counter-terrorism conventions and Security Council resolutions: it had provided support to terrorists by creating the puppet terrorist organizations of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic; it had intentionally transferred conventional weapons and ammunition to the east of Ukraine through uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian-Russian border; it had failed to suppress the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and their movement by facilitating the enrolment of Russian and foreign citizens into terrorist organizations, their training in camps located in Russia, their unimpeded travel to Ukraine and their return to Russia; and it had launched a media campaign to whitewash the image of terrorists who, together with the Russian armed forces, continued to intimidate and kill the local population in Donbas and

destroy what was left of its infrastructure. It was not enough to combat the activities of individual terrorists and terrorist groups. State-sponsored terrorism must also be addressed robustly and comprehensively.

20. **Mr. Nyanid** (Cameroon) said that terrorism was a threat to international peace and security, societies and entire regions. Given its transnational nature, it had to be met by multilateral, concerted and multidimensional action at the national, regional and international levels. Terrorists benefited from the ongoing differences of opinion among States about a definition of terrorism.

21. Counter-terrorism cooperation must be improved. In that regard, it was vital to have prompt access to biometric data and information from intelligence services on terrorist activities and on suspected terrorists and their financing, and also to advance passenger information and passenger name records. Obstacles to information-sharing must be removed. States must fully implement Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) so that security and intelligence services, armed forces and law enforcement authorities could receive timely information on foreign terrorist fighters in order to set up effective rapid-response mechanisms.

22. Any counter-terrorism response must take into account the overlap between violent extremism and terrorism. Measures to address the ideologies behind violent extremist movements must therefore play a major role in domestic counter-terrorism policies.

23. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, together with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and the 19 international and regional conventions and protocols, constituted an important counter-terrorism framework, the implementation of which must be treated as a priority, accorded strong political support and allocated sufficient resources. It was also vital to address poverty, inequalities, a lack of prospects and socioeconomic marginalization, all of which were root causes of terrorism. The international community must work to prevent terrorist acts in compliance with domestic and international law. The stability of the countries concerned, the credibility of their institutions and the protection of the social contract were at stake.

24. Cameroon welcomed the decision to create an International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The United Nations must play a leading role in helping Member States to elaborate prevention strategies, define coordinated and effective counter-terrorism strategies and build capacities in the area.

25. **Mr. Kayalar** (Turkey) said that his delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and paid respect to the memory of all its victims. Terrorism remained one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It hindered sustainable development and the well-being of societies, and was a grave violation of human rights. All acts of terrorism were unjustified, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group.

26. Turkey had been at the forefront of combating terrorist organizations such as Da'esh, Al-Qaida, the Kurdistan Workers' Party/People's Protection Units (PKK/YPG) and the Fethullah Gulen terrorist organization for years. Those and other groups had been operating across national borders, running training camps, acquiring financial resources and operating media outlets to disseminate their propaganda and glorify their acts abroad. Regrettably, some perpetrators of terrorist attacks, their accomplices and financiers had evaded justice and continued to travel freely.

27. Against that backdrop, the crucial lesson was that counter-terrorism efforts could not succeed without increased international cooperation on the basis of the "extradite or prosecute" principle so as to deny safe haven to terrorists. No distinction should be made between terrorist organizations. Combating one terrorist organization while relying upon support from another undermined overall counter-terrorism efforts.

28. The United Nations was the main platform for promoting a collective and coherent response to terrorism. His delegation had actively participated in the further development of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and it welcomed the consensus adoption of the seventh review of the Strategy, notwithstanding some serious shortcomings.

29. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters had direct implications for the security of Turkey and countries beyond its borders. Temporary and legally unsound measures to prevent the return of such fighters would not solve the problem. Responsibility for their so-called detention should not be left to other terrorist groups. Member States should avoid actions that, even if implicitly and inadvertently, would provide legitimacy for other terrorist organizations. Holding foreign terrorist fighters in inadequate and illegal detention facilities and keeping their family members in overcrowded camps posed a serious security threat and a humanitarian challenge. The repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters by the source countries and their prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration, as

appropriate, was of key importance. His delegation commended countries that had undertaken repatriations and urged others to follow suit.

30. In line with Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), individuals suspected of having links to terrorist organizations who entered Turkish territory by illegal means were transferred to deportation centres. Risk analysis groups located in various airports and bus terminals played a critical role in the country's prevention efforts. Countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism was also key to his Government's approach to addressing all aspects of terrorism. Turkey regularly reviewed its legislation in line with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, of which it was a member, and adapted its administrative measures accordingly. There was also a clear connection between terrorism and organized crime, since the smuggling of narcotics and human and migrant trafficking were significant sources of revenue for terrorist groups.

31. Turkey was aware of the importance of upholding human rights in the fight against terrorism and the need to ensure that all measures taken were consistent with its international obligations. Addressing the root causes of terrorism by preventing violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations must remain a priority. It was to be hoped that progress would be made in the negotiations on the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism.

32. His delegation categorically rejected the allegation against Turkey contained in the report of the Secretary General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/76/201, para. 8).

33. **Mr. Al-barati** (Yemen) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism, regardless of its motivation. Terrorism could not be associated with any religion, culture or nationality. Recognizing the need for a determined international response to that criminal scourge, Yemen had acceded to all the international counter-terrorism instruments. It was essential to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and agree on a clear, comprehensive definition. The latter should make a distinction between terrorism and the legitimate right to resist aggression, which was consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and with settled international norms.

34. Yemen had for years fought against Da'esh-Yemen and Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula through direct confrontation, awareness-raising and cooperation with partners. In 2012, his Government had adopted a comprehensive strategy on combating terrorism and the

financing of terrorism. Unfortunately, however, the country's counter-terrorism efforts had been affected by the Houthi coup. The Houthi organization was a racist, extremist religious group that rejected all modern values, including democracy and human rights. It had used violence to shred the social fabric and sow hatred, and had abandoned its allegiance to Yemen in order to become a proxy for the Iranian regime and Hizbullah. Its crimes, including systematic killings, abductions, sieges, reprisals and the destruction of homes and places of worship, were acts of terrorism no different from those of Da'esh. Notwithstanding those facts, his Government was committed to the three components of the Stockholm Agreement and had made numerous concessions in the interests of sparing Yemeni lives.

35. Despite the current crisis, his Government had been able to re-establish its specialized counter-terrorism units with support from the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen and international partners. It was now endeavouring to strengthen its counter-terrorism activities throughout the areas under its control. His delegation urged regional and international partners to increase their logistical and technical support for his Government, and to broaden the scope of their coordination and information exchange, particularly with regard to the cross-border movements of terrorist groups.

36. **Mr. Kim In Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that, despite the efforts of the international community to eliminate terrorism, terrorist acts had increased over time, posing a grave threat to international peace and security. Moreover, the Afghanistan crisis had undermined the credibility of the international community's counter-terrorism efforts.

37. The fight against terrorism should not be misused to pursue political and economic interests and hegemony. The international community had failed to achieve results in its counter-terrorism efforts because certain countries had persistently acted in their own interests under the pretext of countering terrorism.

38. The United Nations must not allow counter-terrorism to be manipulated by certain countries, but must ensure that efforts to combat terrorism were undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Double standards must also be avoided, since their use would create confrontations among Member States and destroy the credibility of cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. The international community must condemn the practice of certain States which arbitrarily accused others of being "State sponsors of terrorism", stigmatized national liberation struggles for independence and

territorial integrity as “terrorist acts” and termed just measures to prevent terrorism as “human rights violations”.

39. It was the consistent, principled position of his Government to oppose terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and any support thereof. His Government had adopted and continuously strengthened its counter-terrorism measures to ensure national security and protect lives and property from terrorist attacks and threats in all their forms. With a view to making an active contribution to the efforts of the international community to build a peaceful and stable world without terrorism, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea had acceded to a number of international counter-terrorism conventions and was fulfilling its obligations in good faith. His Government would continue to discharge its responsibility to eradicate all forms of terrorism and safeguard peace and stability in the region and in the rest of the world.

40. **Mr. Sisouk** (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) said that the fight against terrorism was critical to regional and international peace and security. Acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations not only caused loss of life and destruction of property, but also hindered socioeconomic advancement, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

41. His delegation reiterated its firm support for global efforts and measures to eliminate international terrorism, which must be in compliance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and must respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

42. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic had regularly improved its domestic law in compliance with the relevant international conventions. Acts of terrorism, money-laundering and financing of terrorism had been incorporated as serious criminal offences in its Criminal Code. In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations bodies, it had conducted a number of workshops and seminars to increase awareness of international terrorism at the national and local levels.

43. To further strengthen regional and international cooperation, regular exchanges of experiences, expertise and best practices were of particular importance, especially for national capacity-building. Particular attention must be given to building the capacity of officials and authorities in least developed countries, including through the development of counter-terrorism toolkits and the transfer of knowledge and technology.

44. As a peace-loving nation, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic reiterated its firm commitment to promoting and supporting global counter-terrorism efforts in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. However, without effective international support, such efforts would remain an uphill struggle. His delegation was therefore grateful to all friendly countries and international organizations for their continued support and cooperation.

45. **Ms. Ali** (Maldives) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The fight against terrorism and violent extremism required a multifaceted approach to defeat ideologies that fuelled such extreme acts.

46. To address the threat posed by violent extremism to the country’s vulnerable tourism-based economy, her Government had passed laws aimed at preventing terrorism and terrorist financing and had established a national counter-terrorism centre that served as the national focal point in all counter-terrorism matters. It was a serious criminal offence for any Maldivian to travel to fight in wars on foreign soil. The national strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism used a whole-of-society approach and was aimed at building a more cohesive and resilient society, addressing miscommunication and stigma by promoting solidarity and countering hate speech, xenophobia and related intolerance through inclusive dialogue. It also sought to empower young people through education and provide them with opportunities to realize their true potential.

47. At the regional and international levels, her Government was working closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to build capacity and to share information and best practices in the region. It was also engaging in consultations on a road map for the establishment of a regional network on preventing and countering violent extremism.

48. As a country where Islamic faith defined most aspects of life and culture, Maldives had always maintained a policy of moderation and openness. There was no place for hatred and violence in Islam.

49. **Mr. Panier** (Haiti) said that international terrorism and violent extremism constituted a grave threat to international peace and security, the rule of law, democracy and human rights. Haiti condemned international terrorism, and the ideologies that propagated intolerance and extremism, in all their forms and manifestations, and was determined to participate in all initiatives to combat international terrorism. It was clear that the measures adopted to date had not yielded

the desired results, notwithstanding the existence of numerous international counter-terrorism instruments, both universal and regional in scope. In addition to the motives traditionally associated with terrorism, poverty and unemployment should also be considered as underlying causes of terrorist acts. Efforts to eradicate international terrorism must be multidimensional and must target drug trafficking, illicit enrichment, smuggling and corruption, which were important sources of financing for international terrorism. States must also ensure that the COVID-19 response did not distract attention from the fight against international terrorism.

50. Although not directly affected by international terrorism, the Haitian authorities were greatly concerned by that threat. For more than two years, Haiti had contended with acts of banditry, including assassinations and kidnappings, which were tantamount to terrorist acts, because their objectives were virtually identical, namely, to weaken State institutions and to undermine democracy and fundamental rights. In response, the national authorities had adopted more stringent legislative measures, set up new institutions to strengthen security and reinforced the operational capacities of the national police. Restoring law and order was an absolute priority of the current Head of Government and was an indispensable condition for holding national elections and promoting the country's socioeconomic development.

51. **Mr. Mainero** (Argentina) said that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 had been a major turning point in the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism, and Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) had become the basis for the future work of the United Nations, other international organizations, Member States, regional organizations and all those actively participating in the fight against terrorism. Given that terrorism was a grave threat to international peace and security, human dignity, peaceful coexistence, democracy and economic and social development, an integrated, cooperative and multidimensional approach was needed to combat that scourge.

52. Argentina had suffered directly from international terrorism, having been the victim of two very serious attacks in Buenos Aires: against the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and against the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association in 1994. That experience had reaffirmed his Government's conviction that the fight against terrorism must be conducted in keeping with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant international treaties.

53. Argentina welcomed the adoption of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which showed both the progress achieved since 2001 and the many challenges that remained. His Government had sought to achieve a balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It had strengthened its laws to ensure that victims of terrorism enjoyed rights and guarantees, such as counselling, legal representation, protection and access to justice.

54. His delegation commended the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution [51/210](#) for its work on the codification of a legal framework relating to terrorism and urged all States to intensify efforts to resolve outstanding issues. Argentina had ratified 14 international counter-terrorism instruments and was in the process of ratifying the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft.

55. Given the alarming increase in hate speech, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance that could incite violence, it was essential to work together to promote truly respectful and inclusive societies in which diversity was seen as positive and enriching, rather than as a threat. The pandemic had exacerbated inequalities and the grievances of the marginalized sectors of society in many countries. That polarization had been used by violent extremists to propagate hate speech and violent discourse. To counteract that development, it was important to address the root causes, which were breeding grounds for terrorism, and to strengthen the social fabric by including all sectors of society.

56. Argentina reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism as a pillar of the multilateral system and an organization with universal membership and the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It supported the activities of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and stressed the importance of its role in assisting States through programmes to strengthen national counter-terrorism capacities.

57. **Mr. Lungu** (Zambia) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motive, the nature or the status of the perpetrator. While his delegation noted that, according to the 2020 Global Terrorism Index, terrorism-related deaths had fallen for the fifth consecutive year in 2019, it remained concerned about the impact of international terrorism on the economy. A terrorist attack that destroyed critical physical infrastructure and human

capital often incapacitated important sectors that produced essential goods and services. Local authorities were forced to divert much-needed resources to repair the affected public structures and bolster internal security. Terrorism created widespread anxiety and fear and had a knock-on effect that was sometimes difficult to discern. A terrorist attack in one country could result in market instability in an entire region. It provoked xenophobic sentiments and foreign scepticism, which were detrimental to international trade and foreign direct investment. The cumulative cost for the global economy was staggering.

58. During times of conflict, Governments and populations were far more willing to forego economic and political rights and civil liberties in exchange for peace and security. The fight against terrorism must not be at the cost of such guarantees. Greater international cooperation and better enforcement of national and regional laws were needed. Legislation must be updated and specialized services put in place to combat international terrorism and its financial backers.

59. Zambia had introduced a number of measures to prevent terrorism. The National Assembly had adopted more stringent counter-terrorism laws, and further efforts had been made to ensure that the Financial Intelligence Centre, an autonomous statutory body, was adequately staffed, funded and provided with the necessary incentives to carry out its functions objectively and independently. The Centre, which worked closely with law enforcement services, focused on prevention and detection of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism mechanism and the Financial Action Task Force process had become fully operational. Through the Financial Intelligence Centre (Amendment) Act passed in 2020, his Government had followed up on the findings of the 2019 mutual evaluation report on Zambia, according to which legislation relating to customer identification and verification, wire transfers and administrative sanctions had needed further strengthening. The amended Act allowed the Centre to better monitor suspicious activities in bank accounts used to conceal illicit business transactions. The newly elected Government was currently pursuing a five-year transformative process in its national development programme, with the aim of ensuring that its strategy for fighting corruption, money-laundering and international terrorism was well coordinated.

60. Zambia was grateful for continued technical support from cooperating partners and hoped that further assistance would be given to help it and other developing countries strengthen the capacity of all

relevant institutions to eliminate international terrorism. Efforts should be guided by a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Zambia stood ready to participate actively in the proposed high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

61. **Mr. Hollis** (United Kingdom) said that in the 20 years since the terrible attacks of 11 September 2001, huge strides had been made in countering the global terrorist threat. Al-Qaida had been degraded, and Da'esh had been defeated on the ground in Syria and Iraq. International coordination and cooperation had been vital to that success. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the consensual adoption of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Despite those efforts, the threat of terrorism continued to evolve.

62. In 2019, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate had conducted its second assessment visit to the United Kingdom. His delegation had shared the visit report with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities in order to encourage discussion and the sharing of best practices. No country could fight terrorism alone, and his delegation encouraged other Member States to work with the Executive Directorate to strengthen the counter-terrorism efforts of the international community.

63. The horrific attack in Kabul by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan had shown that efforts to counter the threat of terrorism were far from over. Afghanistan must never again be allowed to become a base for terrorism. The spread of terrorism elsewhere in the world, such as in sub-Saharan Africa, must not be overlooked, and its root causes must continue to be addressed.

64. Science and technology had made it possible to misuse the Internet for terrorist recruitment, radicalization, propaganda, financing and attack planning. States must continue to use science and technology to shape their policies and actions and to remain flexible in response to trends in terrorism and violent extremism.

65. Inclusive international cooperation was vital. Countries must work together through the United Nations and other international organizations and with civil society to use all the tools at their disposal. Effective coordination of capacity-building programmes would ensure maximum impact. Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms was also vital if efforts

to prevent and combat terrorism were to be sustainable and effective. Otherwise there was a risk of undermining the very values that the United Nations had been established to uphold.

66. *Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

67. **Mr. Adom** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that in recent years, the African continent had faced an increasing number of murderous terrorist attacks, mainly in West Africa and the Sahel, against civilians and local and international forces, including United Nations peacekeepers. Starting with the barbarous attack perpetrated on 13 March 2016 in Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire had been the target of repeated terrorist acts along its northern border with Burkina Faso and Mali.

68. In response, the Ivorian authorities had taken a number of measures at the national, regional and international levels. At the national level, his Government had amended its laws on the suppression of terrorism, in 2015, and on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in 2016. In 2018, Côte d'Ivoire had incorporated into national law provisions addressing questions relating to the financing of terrorism and the organization of travel by terrorists, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2253 \(2015\)](#). In cooperation with France, an international counter-terrorism academy had been opened in Jacqueville, several kilometres from Abidjan, to help build the capacities of national and international stakeholders active in the fight against terrorism.

69. Côte d'Ivoire had acceded to the counter-terrorism mechanisms of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union. The Accra Initiative, launched in 2017, brought together Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso and Mali in information-sharing and cooperation on transborder military operations. Côte d'Ivoire was also a party to 19 instruments for the prevention of international terrorism and was actively involved in the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. On 3 June 2021, it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office of Counter-Terrorism as part of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, which would help prevent and detect terrorist crimes through the use of advance passenger information and passenger name records.

70. His delegation called for greater international solidarity and cooperation with a view to supporting the efforts of African countries to meet the challenges to peace, security and sustainable development and to prevent the spread of terrorism.

71. **Ms. Villalobos Brenes** (Costa Rica) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its manifestations and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, regardless of its motivation. Terrorism constituted a threat to international peace and security and must not be tolerated; however, efforts to prevent and combat terrorism must be in compliance with human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law.

72. Counter-terrorism measures adopted at the national and international levels must incorporate a gender perspective, taking into account the implications for women and men of all relevant programmes, policies and laws at all levels. When duly empowered, women played a fundamental role in preventing violent extremism and terrorism. The root causes of radicalization and terrorism – inequality, discrimination and exclusion – could be addressed through inclusive plans and policies.

73. A comprehensive international counter-terrorism convention would be the most appropriate legal framework for ensuring the effectiveness of measures to prevent and eliminate international terrorism. Many international and regional counter-terrorism instruments existed, but there was still no definition of terrorism, and that could give rise to ambiguities and abuse. A high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations would enable action to be taken on such a convention so as to provide an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

74. Although the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had been updated in its seventh review, and Member States had in general terms highlighted the need for respect for human rights in combating terrorism, a number of aspects still needed to be further refined. As expressed by the Secretary-General in his report on terrorism and human rights ([A/76/273](#)), certain measures to counter terrorism and the ways in which they were carried out continued to be a cause for concern with regard to human rights. The human rights perspective must be included throughout the United Nations system. Her delegation recognized the efforts made by the Office of Counter-Terrorism to coordinate actions and measures through the Strategy; however, more resources must be allocated to the issue of human rights.

75. It was regrettable that agreement had not been reached on an accountability mechanism, and that members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and human rights defenders continued to be persecuted and arrested on charges of terrorism in order to impede their work. Any counter-terrorism strategy must take the

victims and their rights into account. Their testimony could help prevent a recurrence of such acts.

76. Costa Rica welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen the capacities of Member States in order to facilitate compliance with and implementation of the relevant counter-terrorism conventions. Such cooperation, which must be in keeping with countries' needs, would help put an end to impunity and ensure that perpetrators were held accountable.

77. **Mr. Koba** (Indonesia) said that his Government unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and rejected any attempts to link terrorism to any specific religion, nationality, people or civilization. The COVID-19 pandemic might well have exacerbated economic hardship and social grievances, which were root causes of terrorism. Terrorism had been evolving. Cyberspace and new technologies were exploited by terrorists for propaganda, recruitment and financing. Increasingly, new forms and manifestations of terrorist acts had racial and ethnic motivations. The problem of recidivism was growing, and an increasing number of women and family members had become perpetrators.

78. Indonesia had adopted legislative measures to ensure better protection, including restitution and compensation, for victims of terrorism. A national action plan on preventing and countering violent extremism that led to terrorism, adopted earlier in 2021, was based on a holistic approach involving Government and society. It included prevention and law enforcement measures and made provision for partnerships and international cooperation, while also aiming to mitigate the harm caused by violent extremism and to promote human rights, youth empowerment, community resilience, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming, good governance and the rule of law.

79. Indonesia hoped that through the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Organization would advance its leading role in preventing and countering terrorism and facilitate capacity-building assistance to Member States where requested. His delegation was pleased that the updated Strategy contained references to new and emerging threats, including the misuse of new technologies, enhancement of the human rights approach in countering terrorism, and the challenge of recidivism, radicalization and terrorist recruitment in prison settings. It was essential to elaborate a comprehensive prevention plan and a counter-terrorism response based on a balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy.

80. **Mr. Ayebare** (Uganda) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations and by whomsoever committed. A meaningful and successful fight against terrorism required a comprehensive definition of terrorism, as a minimum requirement for isolating terrorism and differentiating it from other, legitimate, struggles. His delegation reiterated the importance of finalizing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and called upon Member States to cooperate in resolving all outstanding issues.

81. Uganda supported the establishment by the Office of Counter-Terrorism of a programme office for counter-terrorism and training in Africa, which would make an important contribution to countering terrorism by providing capacity-building support to Member States in the region and would develop and deliver specialized counter-terrorism and law enforcement training programmes on request. His delegation also welcomed the Office's establishment of a regional programme office in Nairobi, for the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism in East Africa.

82. Uganda had long been engaged in fighting terrorism in the country and in the region, whether combating the Lord's Resistance Army, the so-called Allied Democratic Forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo or Al-Shabaab in Somalia. It was grateful to the international community for supporting its forces in that regard.

83. **Mr. Karbou** (Togo) said that terrorist groups were increasingly present in the West African subregion. Da'esh and many of its affiliates had diversified their activities, intensified their attacks and enlarged their areas of operation in the Sahel and along the West African coast. The recommendations of the 2020 Pau Summit and the 2021 N'Djamena summit could serve as a basis for a global response to terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahel region, as called for by the Secretary-General in early 2021. For maximum effectiveness, a holistic approach should be taken, in accordance with international law and the social realities of the areas concerned. It was important to ensure that the victims of those terrorist groups were effectively involved in the fight against them. Governance, security, human rights, and humanitarian and development considerations must be the guiding principles of international mobilization against terrorism.

84. The fight against international terrorism must not serve as a pretext for promoting hidden agendas or engaging in practices that flagrantly violated human

rights or international law, including international humanitarian law. Efforts must be made to ensure gender equality and respect for minorities and vulnerable persons. In addressing the problem of international terrorism, the United Nations must pursue reforms aimed at improving the coordination and coherence of related programmes, projects and instruments. All stakeholders must avoid associating terrorism with religion and must support action taken under the auspices of the United Nations to approach the crime of terrorism from a legal perspective, with a view to establishing global counter-terrorism instruments.

85. Togo was strongly committed to supporting the countries of the Sahel and West Africa, which were gripped by sociopolitical and security tensions that were fuelling the spread of extremism and hate speech. Its strategy for that region was based on multilateral cooperation to promote regional and interregional security; the sharing of its vision for peace; support for political normalization, democratic transition and national reconciliation through mediation; and support for responsible governance in order to achieve greater social and political inclusion in the States of the region.

86. At the national level, Togo took the jihadi threat very seriously and had undertaken not only legal, social and educational measures to prevent and combat violent extremism, but also security measures to protect against it. As part of its 2021–2025 military budget, it had allocated \$1.4 billion to modernize its armed forces and create a special forces unit and a counter-terrorist task force that operated with state-of-the-art equipment.

87. To vanquish terrorism, it was essential to win the fight for human and social development. By offering greater economic inclusion, States gave their populations reasons to become part of the political process and participate as citizens in national construction projects. It was important for States to work together to ensure that certain parts of the world did not end up serving as rear bases or training camps for extremist and terrorist groups.

88. **Mr. Aidid** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. The fight against terrorism must be conducted in a concerted manner, through the United Nations as well as regional and bilateral initiatives. His delegation endorsed the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the consensus adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#).

89. Malaysia continued to focus its primary counter-terrorism efforts on preventive and prescriptive measures. It had strengthened its legal framework to

implement the 20 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and cooperated with foreign law enforcement authorities.

90. Malaysia shared concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic might exacerbate an already complex, evolving and increasingly localized terrorism threat. It was also concerned about the increased danger of online radicalization and recruitment. In the psychological war against terrorism, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism had steadily engaged with the public, especially youth, through various counter-terrorism messaging initiatives. Malaysia also remained vigilant with regard to the emerging threats of bioterrorism and cyberattacks against critical national infrastructure.

91. Deradicalization was a key element of his Government's strategy for countering terrorism and violent extremism. Between January 2020 and August 2021, 246 terrorist deradicalization and rehabilitation programmes had been conducted with the involvement of the Malaysian Prison Department, and 83 counter-terrorism community outreach programmes had been carried out throughout the country.

92. In March 2021, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate had completed the virtual component of its hybrid visit to examine the progress made by Malaysia since its 2006 visit, including the development of a robust framework for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and a comprehensive prison management policy to counter terrorist recruitment in prisons. Malaysia was looking at several of the Executive Directorate's priority recommendations to address remaining issues of concern in the areas of information and communications technology and the role of women and gender in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

93. Malaysia looked forward to collaborating with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, through the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, to hold a national workshop, in late October 2021, on gathering online information on terrorist threats and the investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts.

94. Malaysia supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, which would serve as an important way forward to address the challenges impeding global counter-terrorism efforts. The convening of such a conference should not be contingent on the finalization of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Malaysia continued to support the Committee's establishment of a working group to finalize the

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

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

96. **Mr. Azzam** (United Arab Emirates) said that terrorist groups had taken advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to develop new recruitment and financing methods. His Government had therefore taken proactive action to contain the virus around the world and had provided 2,250 tons of medical assistance to 136 countries. The United Arab Emirates condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation and by whomsoever it was committed. His Government took a comprehensive approach: it was working to strengthen the values of tolerance and multiculturalism, and sought to tackle extremism before it mutated into violent extremism. All social categories, particularly young persons and women, were stakeholders in the process of national development.

97. The United Arab Emirates was part of the international counter-Da'esh coalition. It was essential for the coalition to build on its successes and prevent Da'esh from regrouping or expanding to other regions, such as Africa. On 3 and 4 October 2021, the United Arab Emirates had hosted a meeting of the high-level committee responsible for developing a new Arab counter-terrorism strategy consistent with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and international standards. Participants had adopted a timeline for future activities with a view to formulating the strategy. The country had concurrently hosted a regional workshop on measures to address conditions conducive to terrorism, notably by strengthening a culture of peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue.

98. The United Arab Emirates had provided \$58 million to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for the period 2016–2021 in support of global initiatives to build Member States' counter-terrorism capacities and infrastructure. It was a party to more than 15 regional and international counter-terrorism instruments and had introduced a comprehensive legal framework to combat terrorism, extremist narratives, incitement to violence and the denigration of religions. Lastly, his delegation hoped that Member States would finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

99. **Mr. Zenati** (Tunisia) said that Tunisia condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remained committed to combating terrorism and violent extremism at the national and multilateral levels. As a member of the Security Council and Chair of the

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) (the Counter-Terrorism Committee), his delegation had worked to coordinate efforts to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially in view of the challenges posed by the pandemic. His Government was an active participant in a range of regional and subregional initiatives.

100. In 2015, his Government had adopted an anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism law that was consistent with international standards, including human rights guarantees, and set out specific procedural provisions, definitions of terrorist offences and measures for the protection of victims. The national counter-terrorism strategy was currently being reviewed and updated with a focus on civil society consultation and emerging risks.

101. In combating terrorism and violent extremism, States should give due attention to their root causes, including protracted conflicts and occupation. They should take a preventive and proactive approach based on moderation, social resilience, peace, tolerance and the rule of law. Any plan for a comprehensive and sustainable recovery from the pandemic should include actions to end discrimination and poverty, strengthen equality among States and build solidarity among their peoples.

102. His delegation welcomed the conclusion of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and looked forward to discussions aimed at reaching a consensus definition of terrorism and the convening of a conference with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

103. **Mr. Moon** Dong Kyu (Republic of Korea) said that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations could not be tolerated or justified. His delegation attached great importance to having one strong voice against terrorism, as reflected in the consensus adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and reiterated its firm support for the central role played by the United Nations and its organs in counter-terrorism activities.

104. The international community had witnessed a number of achievements in countering terrorism, and it now had many more tools at its disposal than 20 years previously, when Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) had been adopted. However, the threat posed by terrorists remained, as shown by the recent terrorist attack at Kabul airport in Afghanistan. Efforts to counter terrorism must be based on a comprehensive assessment

of ever-changing terrorist threats and on measures to tackle their root causes.

105. New technologies, including information and communication technology, had been misused by terrorists and violent extremists, but were also being harnessed by counter-terrorism authorities and relevant stakeholders to oppose such activity. The Republic of Korea was interested in engaging in initiatives that addressed such threats, in cooperation with the United Nations and other partners. His delegation hoped that the Connect & Learn Platform, an online capacity-building and networking tool recently launched by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, would advance the Office's capacity-building efforts and play a role as a hub for stakeholders in the area.

106. International cooperation and coordination were essential. The Republic of Korea had actively participated in discussions and activities to strengthen the counter-terrorism efforts of the international community, including through the Financial Action Task Force and the international counter-Da'esh coalition. It remained committed to the Committee's ongoing work aimed at finalizing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

107. Human rights, gender equality and civil society should be at the core of all efforts in counter-terrorism, which should not be invoked as an excuse for violating human rights. Full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism should be pursued. Partnerships with civil society should also be encouraged when designing and implementing a counter-terrorism strategy.

108. **Mr. Mohammed** (Sudan) said that terrorists had exploited the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to recruit followers and spread fear and division. In order to confront the pandemic and terrorism, Member States should work to foster solidarity and pluralism. Following the December 2018 revolution in the Sudan, his Government had taken significant steps to combat terrorism in accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was grateful for the support extended by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate.

109. 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.

110. 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.

111. **Ms. Sao** (Mauritania) said that terrorism had become the greatest security problem of States in the twenty-first century and was the main challenge facing the international community. All Member States must combine their efforts and cooperate effectively in the fight against terrorism to ensure that those responsible for acts of terrorism were apprehended and brought to justice or extradited, in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law and human rights principles.

112. Mauritania firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It had adopted a multidimensional approach for dealing with extremism, working with young people to promote moderation, a harmonious society, a spirit of tolerance and respect for others. The country's Muslim scholars had been called upon to contribute to that end.

113. Deradicalization had become the watchword, and the decline in radical Islamist violence observed in the past five years had been due to the Mauritanian approach, combining a crackdown by security forces, which had driven the jihadists out of the country, and a softer approach to the fight against violent extremism. The dialogues conducted in 2011 between imprisoned extremists and moderate Islamic scholars might serve as an example for neighbouring countries.

114. Starting in 2008, a wide-ranging dialogue involving many sectors of the State and civil society had been held with a view to formulating policies to effectively combat terrorism and related threats in all their forms. That included cooperation between Mauritania and its partners on the basis of the mutual

values of peace and security, including with regard to the ongoing adaptation of the country's defence and security forces to new developments.

115. In order to address the terrorist threat affecting the entire Sahel region, her Government had strengthened its domestic legal framework and established an administrative mechanism that enabled the competent authorities immediately to freeze the funds, financial holdings and economic resources of terrorists or terrorist entities on national or international lists, in conformity with human rights principles.

116. Mauritania had worked to elaborate an effective and efficient strategy for combating terrorism and various forms of extremism through a comprehensive approach that took account of security aspects, religious dialogue and economic and social dimensions, in cooperation with its regional partners, in order to neutralize terrorism and cut off sources of financing, with strict respect for human rights. That strategy, adopted at the Group of Five for the Sahel summit held in June 2020 in Nouakchott, deserved the support of the international community. Her country's counter-terrorism strategy was designed for the long term, because the fight against terrorism was also a long-term endeavour. Despite progress made by Mauritania, it still faced imminent danger, owing to the influence of terrorist groups in the Sahel region.

117. **Ms. Alsherooqi** (Bahrain) said that, according to the Basel anti-money-laundering index rankings for 2021, Bahrain had the lowest risk score in the Arab world and the second lowest in the Middle East region. Her Government had made considerable progress in implementing the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. It was working to harmonize its national efforts to combat extremism, terrorism and the financing of terrorism. A high-level committee chaired by the Minister of the Interior had been established to assess risk and formulate policies. The financial intelligence unit, under the Ministry of the Interior, had the task of receiving notifications of money-laundering and financing of terrorism and transmitting them to the security agencies. Bahrain condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, was convinced of the need for a robust response, and remained committed to cooperating with its allies for that purpose.

118. **Mr. Al-Tememy** (Iraq) said that Da'esh had repeatedly sought to undermine security and stability in Iraq by destroying State facilities, killing civilians and committing horrific, inhumane acts of torture. The establishment of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL bore testament to his Government's

determination to cooperate with the international community for the definitive eradication of terrorism and, in particular, Da'esh. Iraq condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; all entities that adopted violence, terrorism or *takfirist* and hateful narratives were banned under its Constitution. His Government hoped to strengthen its bilateral and multilateral security and intelligence cooperation with other States and with international organizations. For instance, it worked closely with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) and was grateful to the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre for their assistance with capacity-building efforts.

119. The national counter-terrorism strategy of Iraq was consistent with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Its comprehensive approach included combating extremist ideology and organized crime, addressing the sources of terrorist financing, and taking resolute action on the ground. Priority areas included ensuring the repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters, securing the borders, exchanging information and skills, preventing terrorists from acquiring chemical and biological weapons, and tackling cybercrime, terrorism-related crime and the financing of terrorism. His delegation hoped that Member States would reach agreement on a definition of terrorism.

120. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that terrorism and related criminal activities continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the sovereignty, territorial integrity and social and economic development of Member States. Terrorism was often motivated by intolerance, extremism, violent separatism, hate-fuelled ideas and racist ideology, and accompanied by extensive disinformation campaigns in the media and social networks. Terrorists also benefited from transnational organized crime, including illicit trafficking in arms, persons, drugs and cultural property, the illicit exploitation of and trade in natural resources, and the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations.

121. Terrorist acts committed in the context of armed conflicts could amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, thus entailing individual criminal responsibility and entitling States to take measures at the national level to assert criminal jurisdiction over crimes perpetrated by their nationals abroad. No amnesty or any other form of early release could be granted for perpetrators of terrorist acts. Moreover, the shielding and glorification of terrorists could not be tolerated.

122. His delegation looked forward to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/291 on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as a matter of priority, in good faith and through genuine international cooperation, partnership and solidarity.

123. His delegation categorically rejected as false and irresponsible the allegations by Armenia contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/76/201, paras. 8 and 9) and the statement delivered the previous day by the representative of Armenia under the agenda item, the purpose of which was to mislead the international community, conceal the terrorist and related offences of Armenia and justify the heavy losses sustained by its armed forces and terrorist and mercenary formations on the battlefield. Such fabrications were an insult to the memory of thousands of Azerbaijani military personnel and civilians who had sacrificed their lives for the liberation of their homeland from aggressors and terrorists.

124. Armenia had a longstanding track record of supporting State terrorism at the national level. Since the late 1980s, Armenia and a number of Armenian terrorist organizations had perpetrated numerous terrorist attacks against Azerbaijan, claiming the lives of thousands of Azerbaijani citizens, as a means of realizing groundless and unlawful territorial claims and as a method of warfare.

125. The territories of Azerbaijan formerly occupied by Armenia were a graphic example of the heavy militarization of Armenian occupying forces and their interpenetration with international terrorism and organized crime. The evidence collected prior to and throughout the hostilities between September and November 2020 showed that Armenia had recruited foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries from Europe, the Middle East and North America and that civil aviation had been used to transfer such persons and weapons to the conflict zone, in violation of international law.

126. The Armenian diaspora, operating under the guise of charity organizations and NGOs, had been engaged in facilitating the recruitment and transfer process and in raising funds and collecting other material means to finance terrorist activities and support the aggression against Azerbaijan.

127. The 44-day war had resulted in the liberation of the territories of Azerbaijan after nearly thirty years of occupation. A number of foreign nationals had been held accountable for their participation in terrorist and mercenary activities directed against Azerbaijan.

128. After the formal cessation of military activities on 10 November 2020, Armenia had deployed a sabotage group to Azerbaijan for terrorist purposes. A series of attacks perpetrated by that group had caused casualties among Azerbaijani service personnel and civilians. Following a counter-terrorist operation jointly conducted by the State Security Service and the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, the members of that group had been apprehended and brought to justice, in conformity with national legislation and international law.

129. Azerbaijan would continue to take all necessary measures to curb terrorist activities within its internationally recognized territory and to prosecute and punish terrorist offenders.

130. **Mr. Ndong Mba** (Equatorial Guinea) said that his delegation unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed, and expressed its solidarity with the victims of terrorism. Terrorism was a grave threat to humanity and constituted a flagrant violation of international law, including international human rights law. Regardless of its origins, pretexts or motives, it must be met with a policy of zero tolerance. There could be no justification for terrorist acts. Its ideologues, perpetrators, associates and financial supporters must be held to account. Terrorism was a criminal activity that should not be associated with any nationality, religion, civilization or ethnic group.

131. All countries must coordinate efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, in conformity with international law, in particular international refugee law and international humanitarian law. Joint cooperation, and not unilateral actions, was the best way to combat terrorism successfully, because experience showed that no country, however big and powerful, could eradicate terrorism without the help of other States.

132. Terrorist acts in all regions of Africa constituted a clear and present threat to the continent's stability and socioeconomic development. There had been a sharp increase in kidnappings and hostage-taking by terrorist groups aimed at obtaining ransoms or political concessions. His delegation categorically condemned the financing of terrorism, whether directly or indirectly, and whether through funding, the supply of weapons or training. The numerous and persistent acts of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea were a cause for concern and could qualify as maritime terrorism.

133. Convinced that the international community must strive to improve cooperation and maintain unified standards, his delegation welcomed the adoption of

General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the initiatives to promote cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in combating terrorism. It appreciated the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and welcomed the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa.

134. His delegation called for the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. With that in mind, the President of Equatorial Guinea, in his statement before the General Assembly on 24 September 2021, had proposed that an international event be held to address terrorist and mercenary activities and maritime piracy in depth. International counter-terrorism efforts must respect the sovereignty of the countries concerned, be subject to the leading role of the United Nations, including the Security Council, and be in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

135. **Mr. Almowaizri** (Kuwait) said that his country condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations, whatever their justification. Terrorism should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Governments must cooperate in the international counter-terrorism effort and aim to establish measures that promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights; combat impunity; address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty; foster sustainable development, good governance and peaceful coexistence; and ensure respect for religious symbols and holy sites. At the domestic level, his Government had adopted a range of measures to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, with particular reference to the insurance and reinsurance sector.

136. His delegation welcomed the conclusion of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Further action was needed, under the aegis of the United Nations, to tackle the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and their families, strengthen the prosecution of terrorists, build capacities and address the root causes of terrorism. The United Nations and its subsidiary bodies had an important role to play in combating terrorism; ultimately, the problem could be eradicated only through a comprehensive plan bringing together all Member States.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

137. **Mr. Mikhaylov** (Russian Federation) said that, once again, the delegation of Ukraine had misused the forum of the Sixth Committee to make insinuations and false claims. The Kiev regime would do well to cease killing its own citizens in the Donbass region.

138. The previous day, a representative of Ukraine had referred to Russian media outlets as terrorist organizations. The Spokesperson for the Secretary-General himself had been forced to correct that statement. The word “terrorism” was used by Ukrainian officials left and right for propaganda purposes. It was embarrassing to hear the representatives of Ukraine speak such nonsense.

139. **Mr. Knyazyan** (Armenia) said that the statement by the representative of Azerbaijan was a textbook example of hate speech in which an entire nation was labelled as terrorists. The representative of Azerbaijan continued to repeat false narratives about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in an attempt to hijack the work of the Committee and divert its attention from the overwhelming evidence that Azerbaijan had become a sponsor of international terrorism. It was a well-established fact that thousands of terrorists of the Nusrah Front, the Sultan Murad Brigade, the Hamzah Division and other terrorist organizations were active in Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

140. The recruitment and transfer of foreign terrorist fighters by Azerbaijan had been officially acknowledged by several countries, including permanent members of the Security Council, and by a number of law enforcement agencies, and had been widely reported and documented by independent observers on the ground and in the international media. 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 had expressed strong concern about the large-scale recruitment and transfer of foreign mercenaries allegedly affiliated with armed groups and individuals that, in some cases, had been accused of war crimes and serious human rights abuses during the conflict in Syria.

141. The violence perpetrated against ethnic and religious minorities in Syria had been exported to his country's region and included ISIL-style beheadings, torture and the inhuman treatment of prisoners of war and civilian hostages. In Azerbaijan, international terrorists had found an environment conducive to their violent practices and ideology, as seen in the decades-long indoctrination of Azerbaijani society with anti-Armenian hatred, the glorification of perpetrators

of hate crimes against Armenians and the dehumanization of a whole nation on the basis of its identity. The prevailing sense of impunity for crimes against Armenians, cultivated in Azerbaijani society starting at school age, had served as a signal for terrorists to commit heinous crimes during the pre-planned aggression against the people of Artsakh, including extrajudicial executions, ISIL-style torture and mutilation of the bodies of dead soldiers.

142. While the international community had been focused on its COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery effort, Azerbaijan had chosen to resort to massive atrocities, war, destruction and the irresponsible and reckless transfer of foreign terrorist fighters into the region. The Permanent Mission of Armenia had submitted reports to the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies containing exhaustive information, even including the salaries and other benefits provided to such persons by Azerbaijan.

143. Two of those terrorists, Muhrab Muhammad al-Shkheri and Youssef Alabet al-Haji, had been captured and charged with international terrorism and mercenary activities, as well as the commission of serious crimes in violation of international humanitarian law, including attempted murder and attacks on the civilian population. On 4 May 2021, a court in the Syunik region had found them guilty of international terrorism and had sentenced them to life imprisonment. Information in that regard appeared in the Secretary-General's report, which Azerbaijan rejected. Under the pressure of internationally verified evidence that it had turned its territory into a safe haven for terrorists, Azerbaijan had engaged in mirroring allegations against Armenia, which lacked any independent credible source, in an attempt to distract the international community from its own criminal actions. Azerbaijan had also endangered hundreds of nationals from 23 States Members of the United Nations, who had been labelled "foreign mercenaries" and "terrorist fighters" merely on the basis of their Armenian identity.

144. What the representative of Azerbaijan referred to as counter-terrorism activity was a gross violation of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 and had led to the occupation of several villages in the Hadrut region of Nagorno-Karabakh, ethnic cleansing and other gross violations of international law. Conducted in an atmosphere of State-sponsored Armenophobia, torture and inhuman treatment of captives, the criminal proceedings initiated against captured Armenian prisoners of war were a mockery of the rule of law and justice, in disregard of calls by the international

community for an immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of war and detainees.

145. The most outrageous instance of dehumanization of ethnic Armenians had been the inauguration of the so-called "military trophy park" in Baku, displaying wax figures of dying or captured Armenian soldiers. The celebration of such denigrating imagery resembled Nazi-era propaganda and was an ultimate reflection of the extreme level of radicalization and hatred in Azerbaijan.

146. **Mr. Zlenko** (Ukraine) said that the Russian Federation had repeated its manipulative and fake narratives regarding the situation in Ukraine. In 2014, Ukraine had learned by tragic experience what foreign-run terrorism was like. The terrorist component of the undeclared hybrid war waged by Russia against Ukraine was evident and had become a daily routine in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, where the Kremlin puppet masters had set up the terrorist organizations of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic. Strong terrorist forces were active in Donbas, stemming in large part from Russia, which had set up recruitment centres and training camps in occupied Crimea and certain parts of Donbas, as well as in Rostov and other regions of the Russian Federation. Russia continued to send weapons and foreign terrorist fighters into Ukraine through uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian/Russian State border. His Government was regularly providing the international community with extensive and irrefutable evidence of the direct involvement of Russia and its State agencies and officials in financing, sponsorship and coordination of terrorist groups that had committed countless crimes. However, the Russian Federation continued to deny those facts and tried to deflect attention away from itself by blaming others for the same tactics, namely proxy war, that it pursued in Ukraine.

147. The Russian Federation was violating commitments undertaken in accordance with a number of legally binding international counter-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, as well as the relevant Security Council resolutions. In the temporarily occupied Crimea, the aggressor State was discrediting international efforts to counter terrorism by producing fake accusations of terrorist activities and illegally sentencing innocent people. The Russian occupying authorities had chosen to fabricate the so-called Hizb ut-Tahrir cases against Crimean activists and journalists who were not linked to any recognizable crime. Since

2014, the Russian Federation had been using its counter-terrorism laws to put systematic pressure on the Crimean Tatars and had been conducting continuous repression on religious, ethnic and political grounds. States responsible for organizing, financing or otherwise supporting terrorist activities must be held accountable. Russia must stop its armed aggression against Ukraine and its occupation of Ukrainian territories. Transnational terrorism must not only be condemned, but effectively countered and punished.

148. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that the representative of Armenia had again demonstrated the distorted perception of that country's obligations under international law. The so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh" had long ceased to exist as an administrative and territorial unit and it therefore made no sense to refer to the "aggression committed by Azerbaijan" against a non-existent entity. The Karabakh and East Zangezur economic regions had been established in Azerbaijan pursuant to the presidential decree issued on 7 July 2021.

149. In response to armed attacks against its civilian population and armed forces, Azerbaijan had used counter-force to end the occupation of its territories, protect its people and allow more than 700,000 internally displaced persons to return to their homes. It had acted exclusively on its sovereign soil, in full compliance with international law. The legality of its recourse to self-defence as provided in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and customary international law was indisputable.

150. In the comprehensive legal report addressed to the Secretary-General in 2008, Azerbaijan had stated that if the Republic of Armenia put a prompt end to the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan while the cease-fire lasted, and before the Republic of Azerbaijan opted to re-invoke its right of self-defence, there would be no ground for any actual resumption of hostilities ([A/63/662-S/2008/812](#), annex, para. 28). Armenia had ignored that clear message and had only itself to blame for that miscalculation and for believing in endless impunity.

151. In the past, Armenia and the Armenian diaspora had supported and promoted international terrorism. In the 1970s and 1980s, Armenian terrorist organizations had perpetrated more than 200 terrorist acts in North America, Europe and the Middle East, which had left at least 70 persons dead and more than 500 persons injured. Since the end of the 1980s, Armenia and various terrorist organizations under its direction and control had carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Azerbaijan, which had claimed the lives of over 2,000

of its citizens, the majority of whom had been women, the elderly and children. Succeeding Governments of Armenia had consistently demonstrated their solidarity with the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Compelling evidence of the responsibility of Armenia for terrorist activities and the use of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries against Azerbaijan was contained in several United Nations documents, including [A/66/796-S/2012/308](#) and [A/75/625-S/2020/1161](#).

152. **Mr. Knyazyan** (Armenia) said that the representative of Azerbaijan had made an unsuccessful attempt to attribute to Armenia terrorist activities that were committed in the 1970s and 1980s, before Armenia had become independent in 1991. The documents distributed in the United Nations by Azerbaijan did not cite a single independent, credible source in support of its allegations. Most of the references in those documents were unproven assertions from sources in Azerbaijan or its external supporters. Furthermore, they disclosed personally identifiable information regarding individuals who had, without any proof, been labelled as terrorists or mercenaries. Azerbaijan should be held accountable for its attempts to propagate anti-Armenian hate speech in the United Nations.

153. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that the false statements and comments made by the representative of Armenia constituted a clear abuse of the forum of the United Nations and of democratic procedures for discussing the items on its agenda. In February 2021 the social networking service Twitter had issued a press release stating that, in order to prevent the dissemination of fake news and false narratives, it had investigated and removed 35 accounts with ties to the Government of Armenia, under its platform manipulation policy. The international community must hold Armenia accountable for the war that it had unleashed and the suffering inflicted on the people of Azerbaijan for the sole purpose of pursuing unlawful territorial claims based on fabricated historical narratives and racial prejudices.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.