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Chair: Mr. Chindawongse (Thailand)

Contents

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/78/221)

1. **Mr. Makayat-Safouesse** (Congo) said that terrorism was exacerbated by international divisions, economic vulnerabilities and social inequalities. The terrorist organizations Da'esh and Al-Qaida and their affiliates such as Boko Haram were a particular threat in Africa. Only collective action could stop the scourge from spreading. The process of radicalization to terrorism could not be defused without dialogue and respect for human rights and the rule of law. Education was therefore an effective tool for increasing resilience against violent extremism. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/243, in which the Assembly had decided to declare 12 February the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism, as and when Conducive to Terrorism. Combating all forms of discrimination and hate speech could also help to strengthen resilience against extremist ideologies and promote engagement in favour of peace and non-violence.

2. The terrorist threat in Africa remained a cause for concern owing to its considerable negative impact on the overall situation on the continent. Silencing the guns in Africa was more necessary than ever. At a time when African countries were facing serious economic and financial crises, mobilization of financing for peacekeeping operations was crucial. His delegation therefore called for reliable and lasting funding for African peace operations on the basis of the common African position on the financing of peace support operations adopted in Addis Ababa.

3. His country took active part in collective efforts to combat terrorism and had ratified several relevant regional and international instruments, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents. Fighting terrorism also meant addressing the socioeconomic factors that contributed to terrorist recruitment. It was crucial to counter terrorist propaganda that targeted young people on the Internet. In the face of numerous challenges, global solidarity in the fight against terrorism was more important than ever.

4. **Mr. Kim Hyunsoo** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including acts committed on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance and in the name of certain religions or

beliefs. His delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/298 on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, thanks to the spirit of solidarity displayed by all Member States during the review process. Nonetheless, the threat to global peace and security posed by terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates was showing no signs of abating.

5. To respond effectively to the evolving nature of terrorism, a holistic approach that addressed the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty and inequality, was required. The Office of Counter-Terrorism should strengthen its coordinating role and collaborate with other United Nations agencies and regional and subregional organizations in fighting terrorism, considering the complex and multifaceted nature of the challenges posed by the terrorist threat and the limited resources available to individual States. It was also important to promote an integrated and balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to support capacity-building for Member States while ensuring respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. His country's national counter-terrorism committee had already appointed a human rights protection officer as proof of its commitment to a society based on respect for human rights and the rule of law.

6. Emerging technologies were providing terrorist groups with new avenues of recruitment that required counter-terrorism methods to be updated on a regular basis. The Republic of Korea supported the creation of a United Nations entity to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence and digital technologies. It welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2664 (2022), which provided for humanitarian exemptions to asset freeze measures imposed by United Nations sanctions regimes.

7. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali) said that the Sahel had been living with terrorism and violent extremism ever since the 2011 intervention by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Libya. The region was plagued by poverty, irregular migration and trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons, as well as intercommunal tensions. In the case of Mali, terrorists were depriving its people of their fundamental rights, including the right to education and the right to food, freedom of movement and freedom of religion and belief. Many thousands had lost their lives or had been displaced as a result of terrorism and violent extremism. To address those challenges, his Government had adopted a comprehensive strategy and action plan which included both security enhancements and political and economic reforms. Its development plan included a special focus

on young people and women, and rapid-impact economic projects for disadvantaged communities. His Government was promoting religious dialogue, providing training for religious leaders and working to bolster the traditional foundations of community stability.

8. Mali had set up a specialized judicial unit on terrorism and transnational organized crime, a national financial information processing unit and a central narcotics office special unit to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime. It had also adopted laws on the suppression of terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and on the prevention and suppression of illicit gains. A new Penal Code was being developed to revamp the country's counter-terrorism framework. However, the transnational nature of terrorism meant that defeating it would require cooperation at the regional, continental and international levels. To that end, in September 2023, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger had joined forces to fight terrorism in the Liptako-Gourma area by signing the Liptako-Gourma Charter, which had created the Alliance of Sahel States.

9. **Mr. Ikondere** (Uganda) said that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Uganda recognized the non-derogable obligation to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation expressed concern that General Assembly resolution [77/298](#) on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy did not include a reference to the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, which had been established by General Assembly resolution [76/254](#), and hoped that the ninth review of the Strategy, to be held in 2026, would produce a review document that was more reflective of the concerns of Member States.

10. Over 60 per cent of global terrorism fatalities in 2022 were reported to have occurred in Africa and were perpetrated by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, the Allied Democratic Forces, the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara. According to the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, there had been more terrorist attacks and fatalities in the first half of 2023 than in the corresponding period in 2022 across the continent. A recent attack in Uganda had killed 42 people, including 37 children. It was the activity of such terrorist groups

that had made Uganda engage in joint operations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo against the Allied Democratic Forces. It was likely that the attack on innocent children had been carried out in the false hope that the Ugandan forces would be dissuaded from further pursuing them.

11. Since African Union peace support operations were helping to carry out the United Nations Security Council mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security, they should be financed by United Nations assessed contributions. Measures should be taken to ensure that information and communications technologies, and in particular the Internet, were not used for terrorist purposes. States should not allow their territories to be used for the preparation, financing or organization of terrorist acts against other States. Youth violence should be confronted by addressing its socioeconomic root causes. Africa needed to build strong and professional armies equipped with the correct non-sectarian, pan-African and nationalist ideologies in order to defeat terrorism. There was also a need for cross-border cooperation, information- and intelligence-sharing and capacity-building and technical assistance with a view to building professional institutions across Africa, especially in the areas of law enforcement and national security.

12. **Mr. Moussa** (Djibouti) said that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, race, culture, ethnic group or society. His delegation was deeply concerned at the rise in terrorist attacks grounded in xenophobia, Islamophobia and racism. Djibouti was astounded by the conclusion found in the most recent report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief ([A/HRC/46/30](#)) that suspicion, discrimination and hatred towards Muslims had reached "epidemic proportions", a situation that was further exacerbated by the anti-Muslim political discourse of far-right movements. Freedom of expression could not be construed to mean freedom to burn copies of the Qur'an and to undermine the dignity of Muslims. His delegation was therefore disappointed that the resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had not included a reference to the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, even though it had been adopted by consensus by the General Assembly.

13. African countries had been well aware of the scope and gravity of the threat posed by terrorist and extremist groups since the 1990s, when they had signed the 1999 Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which reflected the determination of African countries to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Despite the

progress that had been made in that regard and the adoption of the Silencing the Guns initiative in 2020, the persistence and resurgence of conflict on the continent had facilitated the propagation of criminal organizations. That situation was being exacerbated by the inflow of foreign terrorist fighters from Syria and Iraq, who had helped to reinforce groups that were already present on the continent.

14. It was imperative to boost the financial support dedicated to various technical capacity-building and operational programmes for African countries. At the operational level, it would be appropriate to explore ways and means of providing specific support to the African standby force to enable it to properly combat terrorism. With regard to regulatory and programmatic capacities, the opening of programme offices of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in Morocco and Kenya was a promising step. Preventing, combating and eliminating terrorism required a global approach that included addressing the root causes of terrorism.

15. The threat posed by the terrorism and violent extremism in the Horn of Africa and in East Africa affected all countries without distinction. As a result, the States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, with the support of international partners, were participating in the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, which had been liberating Somali territory from the terrorist organization Al-Shabaab for over a decade. Since 2017, the subregion also had a centre of excellence for countering violent extremism, in Djibouti. His country was also in the vanguard of international efforts against terrorism and piracy. In 2021, it had joined the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and was just about to complete a capacity-building programme for judicial investigations in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

16. **Ms. Seneduangdeth** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that terrorism not only caused tragic loss of life, but also hindered the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All possible measures should be taken to eliminate international terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Her country was continually reviewing its domestic laws to bring them into line with the international conventions to which it was a party. All acts of terrorism, including money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, were categorized as serious criminal offences under its Penal Code.

17. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had ratified the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and was a party to 13 international counter-terrorism conventions and instruments. Since 2007, it had been a member of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering, a Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-style regional body. Her Government held awareness-raising workshops and seminars in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

18. **Mr. Panier** (Haiti) said that his delegation strongly condemned ideologies that advocated intolerance and extremism in all their forms and manifestations and called for collective introspection with a view to finding solutions to those global scourges. While there was no shortage of legal instruments on combating international terrorism, the international community was still discussing ways of combating the scourge. While his country was not directly affected by international terrorism, its authorities were still concerned about the phenomenon. For several years, Haiti had also been facing an upsurge in acts of banditry, murder, abduction, theft and sexual assault, which were akin to acts of terrorism and which were designed to weaken State institutions and undermine democracy and people's basic rights.

19. In his latest report on assessment of progress achieved on the key benchmarks established in paragraph 25 of resolution [2653 \(2022\) \(S/2023/677\)](#), the Secretary-General had observed that the multifaceted crisis in Haiti, with gang violence at its centre, had further deepened since the establishment of the Haiti sanctions regime. The violence was spreading beyond the capital to the rest of the country, with thousands of murders and abductions occurring during the period from October 2022 to June 2023. The Haitian National Police were in dire need of international assistance in order to restore order. His delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution [2699 \(2023\)](#) on the deployment of a multinational security support mission to Haiti.

20. **Mr. Katz Pavlotsky** (Uruguay) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and was committed to combating that scourge. Accordingly, even though the resolutions of the General Assembly had the legal value of recommendations, it implemented them at the domestic level, giving special importance to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the negotiation and adoption of which his Government had supported. It therefore reiterated its commitment to the four pillars of the Strategy.

21. Member States had a fundamental obligation to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, which constituted a threat to international peace and security. His country had developed a multidimensional and multisectoral approach to counter-terrorism that involved a variety of national actors. It had adopted laws to combat money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Its national counter-terrorism strategy, adopted in 2017, was in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions. Uruguay implemented the resolutions of the Security Council on the basis of the Council's Consolidated Sanctions List. Uruguay was also a party to 18 of the 19 international legal instruments for the prevention of terrorist acts adopted since 1963. Its new Code of Criminal Procedure, adopted in 2017, had replaced the country's previous inquisitorial system with an adversarial system that included respect for constitutional guarantees and expedited procedures, especially for crimes involving money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

22. **Mr. Omar** (Malaysia) said that his country deplored the recent terrorist attacks in Türkiye and Pakistan and stood in solidarity with the Governments and peoples of those countries. Malaysia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Terrorism and violent extremism were major threats to world peace and security. Terrorism should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Malaysia therefore strongly disagreed with the negative stereotyping and profiling of Muslims as terrorists.

23. His delegation supported the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [77/298](#) on the eighth review of the Strategy. Malaysia had developed a domestic counter-terrorism legal framework that was consistent with its international obligations and subject to democratic accountability and judicial oversight. It cooperated with foreign law enforcement agencies and was a party to 11 of the international counter-terrorism instruments, as well as to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. Mindful of the importance of winning hearts and minds, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur proactively engaged the public with counter-messaging on the dangers of terrorism and the threat of online radicalization and recruitment.

24. His Government had given constructive responses to United Nations reporting mechanisms such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which had conducted its

hybrid visit to Malaysia from 7 to 9 November 2022. During the visit, open and productive discussions had been held about the country's achievements, including its robust anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism framework, its ratification of six additional counter-terrorism instruments, and the establishment of an independent police oversight mechanism.

25. Malaysia would continue to take part in conferences and meetings held by the relevant United Nations agencies. It had welcomed the convening of the third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2023 and supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to address the challenges impeding global counter-terrorism efforts. The convening of such a conference should not necessarily depend on prior finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

26. **Ms. Bhat** (India) said that terrorism was an existential threat to international peace and security. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of the motivation could never be justified and the perpetrators and supporters of terrorist acts should be brought to justice. It was also important to ensure that collective action against terrorism did not give space to countries that used terrorism as a political tool to spread violence and hatred and divide societies. Such acts should be condemned unequivocally and their perpetrators held accountable by the international community.

27. In its resolution [1566 \(2004\)](#), the Security Council had recalled that terrorism was under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature. India had a longer history than most countries with State-sponsored cross-border terrorism and had been calling for a comprehensive multilateral counter-terrorism legal framework since 1972. As early as 1996, India had taken the initiative to circulate a first draft of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It was unfortunate that while terrorism remained unabated, the efforts of the international community to adopt such a convention were being constrained by narrow differences, with the result that there was still no agreement even on the definition of international terrorism. In that connection, her delegation suggested that paragraph 3 of resolution [1566 \(2004\)](#) provided a comprehensive definition of international terrorism which could serve as the basis for further discussion.

28. New technologies were being put to disturbing uses by terrorist groups. Information technology was being used for propaganda and recruitment. Drones were being used to traffic drugs, money, weapons and explosives, and even to carry out attacks. The international community should focus on those threats, and not be distracted by debates over definitions. Instead, attention should be devoted to supporting the work of multilateral institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force and the Egmont Group that tracked financing of terrorism and money-laundering risks.

29. India had contributed significantly to addressing the threat of terrorism. In October 2022, it had hosted meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Committee which had led to the adoption of the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. Also in October 2022, India had hosted the ninetieth session of the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). In November 2022, it had hosted the third international conference on combating the financing of terrorism under the theme “no money for terror”. At their recent Summit held in New Delhi, the G20 leaders had stressed the need for regulatory and supervisory frameworks for managing risks associated with virtual assets.

30. Lastly, her delegation called on the international community to take action on the eight-point action plan it had proposed at the January 2021 ministerial-level meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee held to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. It hoped that implementation of the action plan as key principles would greatly help in combating the threat of terrorism.

31. **Ms. Falconi** (Peru) said that her delegation condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Terrorism had never been a means of social transformation. Violence only led to destruction and human rights violations and the victims thereof were often the poorest and most disenfranchised citizens. Peru therefore supported United Nations efforts to obtain sustained and effective multilateral responses to eradicate violence and terrorism, in accordance with international law and with due respect for human rights. 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 with the implementation of 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.

32. 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 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 \(2019\)](#).

33. The links between terrorism and organized crime must be broken; financial intelligence, customs transparency and control, and cooperation must be enhanced to combat the mechanisms used to finance terrorism and 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.

34. **Mr. Alodaib** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan and Türkiye. It also condemned all forms of terrorism no matter what the motivation. It had passed legislation on combating terrorism and the financing of terrorism and maintained a list of charitable associations and non-governmental organizations with a view to preventing their exploitation for terrorist activities. The Kingdom had been the major contributor to the founding of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in 2011 and was Chair of that Centre’s Advisory Board. It had also established the Etidal Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology.

35. Freedom of expression should not be used as a tool for cultural confrontation. Recent incidents of the burning of copies of the Qur’an promoted hate and violence. Such acts carried out in exercise of the right of freedom of expression were not consistent with human rights. The only way to create a culture of tolerance was through international efforts to promote acceptance of religions in all societies. His delegation had therefore been gratified by the adoption of General Assembly resolution [77/318](#) on promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech.

36. No one nation could confront terrorism alone. Among his country's numerous international partnerships was one between the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. The Kingdom also supported the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites and had hosted and co-chaired the meeting of the ministers for foreign affairs of the international counter-Da'esh coalition.

37. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that his delegation strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in brotherly Türkiye and expressed its sympathies and full solidarity with the Government and people of that country. Terrorism remained a potential and even immediate threat in many regions and countries. In some parts of the world, including the region to which Azerbaijan belonged, terrorism had been used to advance territorial claims, support violent ethnic separatism and wage wars against sovereign States. The threat from terrorism grounded in xenophobia, racism, ethno-nationalism and intolerance was increasing. Terrorism continued to benefit from organized crime and the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations, which radical ethnic diaspora communities used for recruitment and fundraising.

38. Terrorist acts against diplomatic and consular missions were continuing, with preventive measures by host States often proving inadequate. States needed to fulfil their international obligations by ensuring that their territories were not used for terrorist activities, including financing and other kinds of support, and that all perpetrators were brought to justice. The war against terrorism should not be used to target any religion or culture, a principle that must be part of any counter-terrorism strategy.

39. Azerbaijan had repeatedly been targeted by externally directed terrorist attacks, which had claimed the lives of thousands of its citizens. For more than thirty years, the territories of Azerbaijan formerly occupied by Armenia had been marked by the activities of terrorist infiltrators, mercenaries and other armed groups, accumulation and proliferation of uncontrolled armaments and military equipment and illicit exploitation of and trade in natural resources and other illegal activities. Despite the liberation of the occupied territories and the end of the conflict in 2020, Armenia had refused to withdraw its armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan; it had resorted to mine terrorism and had continued to import weapons, military equipment and soldiers into the territory of Azerbaijan, to smuggle illegally mined minerals and to allow the illegal movement of third-country nationals.

40. Azerbaijan had taken appropriate measures, including effective border control, to ensure the safety of its people and to address the increasingly critical security situation. Furthermore, on 19–20 September 2023, following another deadly terrorist attack that had caused numerous civilian and military casualties, Azerbaijan had taken local counter-terrorism measures against the Armenian armed forces illegally deployed and present on its territory. Those measures had lasted less than 24 hours and had culminated in the dissolution of the former occupation regime and its structures and the surrender and disarming of the Armenian armed forces on the territory of Azerbaijan. Several individuals have been detained and arrested on charges of terrorism, war crimes and other serious offences. Azerbaijan would continue to take all necessary measures to curb terrorism and prosecute and punish terrorists.

41. **Mr. Blanco Conde** (Dominican Republic) said that, as a nation concerned about international peace and security, the Dominican Republic condemned terrorism in all its forms and had therefore taken measures to combat the threat. It was a signatory to a number of international counter-terrorism treaties and agreements. It had strengthened its domestic legal counter-terrorism framework, including adopting laws that made the financing of terrorism a serious crime and that provided for international cooperation in the extradition of suspected terrorists, to ensure that the country was not a safe haven for persons who intended to use it for terrorist activities.

42. The Dominican Republic had also strengthened its border control and airport security mechanisms to prevent individuals associated with terrorism from entering the country, and cooperated with international agencies such as INTERPOL to exchange information and track suspected terrorists. It also cooperated with other States and relevant international organizations in that effort, always in accordance with international law and human rights obligations. Education and awareness-raising played a major role in the country's counter-terrorism strategy. His Government was continuing its capacity-building efforts to prevent and detect the transit, trafficking and use of dual-use materials for terrorist purposes. To that end, it had established a programme to enhance maritime and port security across the country, with the support of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States and the Government of Canada.

43. **Mr. Al-Zubaidi** (Iraq) said that his country was among those most affected by terrorism. It had witnessed daily the brutality of Da'esh and had been instrumental in investigating and uncovering that

terrorist organization's mechanisms and financing schemes. Iraq called for consolidation and coordination of international and regional counter-terrorism efforts and greater bilateral and multilateral intelligence and security cooperation. It was committed to active cooperation with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team.

44. Iraq had supported the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Along with Spain, Iraq was Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism. At the national level, the Government was in the process of enacting a law on accountability for crimes committed by Da'esh in Iraq and was developing a comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategy in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Iraq appreciated the support provided by the Office of Counter-Terrorism in the form of capacity-building and workshops, and was happy to share its expertise with the international community. Iraq shared the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in his reports about the tens of thousands of terrorist fighters being held in detention camps and echoed his call for Member States to take back their nationals residing in those camps.

45. The responsibility to fight terrorism was collective, but national ownership of counter-terrorism efforts should be respected. There should be more cooperation, especially on eliminating sources of funding for terrorist activities, blocking logistical supplies and illegal weapons trafficking, and preventing the transnational movement of terrorists. Iraq reiterated its call to avoid politicization of counter-terrorism efforts. States should not use the territory of other States to settle scores. Further progress was needed on arriving at an agreed-upon definition of terrorism.

46. **Mr. Spasse** (Albania) said that the recent terrorist attack in Ankara confirmed once again that terrorism spared no one. His delegation expressed its condolences and stood in solidarity with the people and Government of Türkiye. Albania condemned in the strongest terms all forms and shapes of terrorism and violent extremism. Counter-terrorism efforts around the world were being hampered by ongoing global challenges related to ongoing conflicts, climate change and other factors. Terrorist groups were taking advantage of gaps in the international counter-terrorism architecture and international legal framework. The world needed a rules-based system and a clear legal framework to be able to eradicate terrorism. The lack of agreed-upon definitions of terrorism and violent extremism had led to misinterpretations. The Committee should at the very least be able to agree on what constituted terrorism; his

delegation supported the negotiation process in that regard.

47. The fight against terrorism should not be used as a pretext to violate human rights and freedoms. All counter-terrorism measures should be in compliance with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. Local communities, civil society and the private sector should all be enlisted in prevention efforts. All perpetrators of terrorist acts, regardless of their motivations, should be held accountable and brought to justice. More investment was needed in programmes for victims of terrorism, and care should be taken to include women in the fight against terrorism.

48. **Mr. Lasri** (Morocco) said that terrorism had shown itself to be highly adaptable in the face of international counter-terrorism efforts. The lack of a multilateral consensus on an international legal framework for the elimination of terrorism had not prevented States from adopting their own measures and provisions, either individually or with other States, to address the phenomenon. At the national level, his country had adopted a comprehensive and inclusive national strategy that continued to be adjusted as new terrorist challenges emerged. Its national response was no longer limited to a conventional approach confined to domestic laws and regulations and accession to the standard international instruments, but was now part of a new dynamic focused on the search for multidimensional, effective, lasting and innovative solutions. Such solutions could be achieved through religious reforms, socioeconomic development, poverty alleviation and security and judicial measures.

49. In terms of international cooperation, Morocco had strengthened its cooperation not only at the bilateral level through a new-generation strategic partnership with its immediate Arab, African and Euro-Mediterranean neighbours and partner countries in the Americas and Asia, but also at the multilateral level within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As proof, since 2020, Morocco had been home to a programme office of the Office of Counter-Terrorism; in May 2022, it had hosted the ministerial meeting of the international counter-Da'esh coalition; in June 2023, it had hosted the Marrakesh Platform meeting of the heads of African counter-terrorism agencies; and until March 2023, it had been Co-Chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

50. The current security situation in Africa required joint actions within the continent and with international partners. To that end, Morocco was committed to a new model of South-South cooperation based on the sharing

of experiences and reciprocal learning. Morocco condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which it deemed criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed. In that vein, it remained convinced that the adoption of an international convention on international terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations would provide the international community with an effective response mechanism.

51. **Ms. Almarzooqi** (United Arab Emirates) said that although there had been progress in confronting terrorism, there were still places where terrorist groups were exploiting conflicts, economic conditions and security vacuums to push their agendas. The Da'esh organization in particular was using recent incidents involving the burning of copies of the Qur'an to recruit members and incite attacks. National and international counter-terrorism legal frameworks needed to be reinforced. Her Government had enacted and updated several counter-terrorism laws and acceded to more than 15 regional and international counter-terrorism conventions. It called for the finalization and adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible.

52. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Religious designations should not be used to refer to terrorist groups; in particular, the term "Islamic State" should not be used to refer to Da'esh. Member States should reinforce their legal frameworks to prevent terrorist groups from using advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual currency, drones and social media to promote their agendas. Operational and legal capacities should also be strengthened to stop terrorist groups – Da'esh in particular – from using sexual and gender-based violence as a tactic. Such groups should not benefit from impunity; perpetrators should be tried and punished under legal processes that were consistent with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

53. Counter-terrorism efforts would fail if attention were not also paid to bolstering the values of tolerance and mutual understanding. That required investment in education, economic development, and empowerment of women and young people. In that connection, her delegation called for the implementation of Security Council resolution [2686 \(2023\)](#) on tolerance and international peace and security.

54. **Ms. Taye** (Ethiopia) said that terrorist acts were indiscriminate criminal acts that continued to cause irreversible damage to people's lives and livelihoods and to endanger peace and development at the national

and international levels. To ensure that its citizens lived in a state of peace and stability, Ethiopia had been making persistent efforts to combat terrorism, including by enacting and enforcing domestic laws, ratifying international treaties and implementing Security Council resolutions related to the topic.

55. A dynamic and multidimensional collective response to terrorism was necessary owing to the volatile, indiscriminate and transnational nature of the threat. Her country was actively involved in combating terrorism in Africa, including by playing a significant role in fighting Al-Shabaab and other global terrorist cells in Somalia. It was also part of the global peace and security architecture and was committed to supporting coordinated counter-terrorism efforts at the national, regional and international levels. Ethiopia was a party to nine international and regional counter-terrorism instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union. It had concluded bilateral agreements on extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters with many countries and was a member of several intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms.

56. Ethiopia was bringing its domestic legal framework into line with international instruments, notably with regard to foreign terrorist fighters, the financing of terrorism, and money-laundering. In 2020, it had adopted a new counter-terrorism law that provided for mechanisms to ensure law-enforcement accountability and protection of the rights and freedoms of individuals. Maximum care had been taken to ensure that the new law was in compliance with international human rights conventions.

57. Ethiopia had concluded police cooperation agreements with its neighbours focusing on legal cooperation against the crime of terrorism and also cooperated extensively with other States on extradition and criminal investigations related to money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Her delegation looked forward to the African Counter-Terrorism Summit to be held in Abuja in April 2024, which would provide an opportunity to devise legislative and judicial measures that should be renewed in order to meet the emerging challenge of terrorism.

58. **Mr. Almarzooqi** (Bahrain) said that terrorist groups were using advanced technology for recruitment, incitement, training and planning. Some were already using remote-controlled drones and missiles and developing biological and chemical weapons. His delegation commended the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other international agencies to bring those emerging challenges to light.

59. It was crucial to eliminate the sources of financing of terrorism. In Bahrain, the legal framework had been strengthened and brought into line with international provisions on the freezing of suspicious funds. Non-profit institutions were subject to regulation and oversight and were required to report all their transactions. There was a national committee to combat extremism, terrorism, the financing of terrorism, and money-laundering that set forth the relevant policies and proposed individuals and entities to be put on sanctions lists. For three years running, Bahrain had had the lowest risk score in the Arab world and the second lowest in the Middle East region according to the Basel anti-money-laundering index rankings.

60. The cross-border nature of terrorism made international partnerships all the more important in combating it. Bahrain participated in several international counter-terrorism initiatives, including the Terrorist Financing Targeting Centre, the international counter-Da'esh coalition and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force.

61. **Mr. Gaouaoui** (Algeria) said that terrorism should not be linked, intentionally or unintentionally, to any particular religion, civilization or geographic area. All forms of violent extremism, including Islamophobia and xenophobia, should be confronted. The international community needed to arrive at a precise definition of terrorism that was consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the principles adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [46/51](#) on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

62. His country supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review process. Bilateral, regional and international cooperation should be enhanced to promote the sharing of best practices and experiences. Member States should address the financing of terrorism, the linkages between terrorist groups and organized crime, the misuse by terrorists of modern technology, the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, and growing hate speech. Punitive measures for terrorism should be commensurate with the heinousness of the crime.

63. Algeria made a point of taking part in the relevant international mechanisms, including the Western Mediterranean Forum, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, INTERPOL, and mechanisms under the auspices of the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It took part in the Joint Military Staff Committee of the Sahel Region and hosted the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism and the General Assembly of the

African Police Cooperation Organisation. The President of Algeria was the African Union's Champion President for the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

64. **Mr. Balobaid** (Yemen) said that his country rejected terrorism regardless of its motivations. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, culture or nationality. Yemen had acceded to all the international counter-terrorism instruments.

65. Terrorist groups, organized crime, foreign terrorist fighters and Islamophobia – as exemplified by the burning of copies of the Qur'an and houses of worship – posed threats to the security of States and individuals, and to minorities in States where xenophobia was on the rise. The Yemeni people were embroiled in a struggle with a racist extremist religious group that believed it had a divine right to rule and had abandoned its allegiance to Yemen in order to become a proxy for the Iranian regime and Hizbullah. Its crimes were acts of terrorism no different from those of Da'esh or Al-Qaida. Nevertheless, his Government was committed to a comprehensive agreement based on the three agreed components of the Stockholm Agreement and had made numerous concessions in the interests of sparing Yemeni lives. Most recently, his Government had responded positively to the proposal made by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen to extend the truce.

66. His delegation urged the Security Council to ensure that Member States complied with the arms embargo imposed under paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#), the provisions of which had been reaffirmed in Security Council resolution [2642 \(2022\)](#). The Iranian regime had flagrantly violated those resolutions by smuggling military technology and weapons to the Houthi militia, which used ballistic missiles and drones in terrorist operations. Just one week previously, they had attacked Bahraini forces in Saudi Arabia. They had also targeted shipping lanes as well as economic facilities in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. His delegation called for mechanisms to monitor and prevent the use of drones in terrorist operations against civilians and facilities in the territories of coalition States. It commended the Panel of Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Security Council resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) for its efforts to prevent the smuggling of arms into Yemen.

67. His Government was working to develop a comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategy adapted to emerging trends and consistent with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The national strategy would include measures to raise awareness and combat extremist ideology, organized crime and the financing of terrorism. In 2012, his

Government had adopted a comprehensive plan on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. 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.

68. **Mr. Ousman** (Niger) said that terrorism should not be associated with any particular religion. While terrorism was often linked to poor governance, absence of the rule of law, institutional instability, lack of access to basic social services, economic difficulties and fragile State structures, it could not be dissociated from geopolitical, geoeconomic and geostrategic considerations in certain countries. Counter-terrorism efforts should therefore include an approach that incorporated factors such as respect for the sovereignty of States, particularly over their natural resources.

69. Since the collapse of Libya in 2011, the Sahel region had seen an increase in terrorist attacks aimed at communities, schools, health centres, public institutions and markets. Over 4,500 civilians had lost their lives in terrorist attacks in 2022, a figure that was on track to be higher in 2023. Insecurity caused by terrorist activities had led to the closure of many schools, depriving young boys and girls of their basic right to education. The security situation in the Sahel had engendered a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, leaving more than 1 million as refugees, over 5 million persons forcibly displaced and 34.5 million persons – largely women and children – in need of assistance. In September 2023, faced with that security and humanitarian disaster and the lack of results from existing counter-terrorism mechanisms, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which shared the Liptako-Gourma area where most of the terrorist activity in the Sahel was concentrated, had joined together to sign the Liptako-Gourma Charter creating the Alliance of Sahel States.

70. In the face of continued terrorist attacks, the defence and security forces were continuing to protect the people and their properties and the country's territorial integrity, foiling several terrorist attacks and neutralizing several terrorist leaders in August and September 2023. However, the fight against terrorism could not be waged solely within a military framework. The Government of Niger was therefore making efforts to fight corruption, provide social services and create jobs, despite the illegal, unjust and inhumane economic and financial restrictions imposed on the country.

71. **Mr. Kiboino** (Kenya) said that his country had ratified a number of counter-terrorism conventions and incorporated them into its domestic law. It was

continuously improving its national counter-terrorism legislative framework and had adopted a community policing strategy based on an all-of-society approach to detecting radicalization and thwarting terrorist plots at the early stages. Kenya also fostered strong law enforcement and judicial cooperation partnerships within such entities as the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Union. It commended the work of the United Nations Mission in Sudan and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, and called for adequate, sustainable and predictable funding for such missions. Kenya was committed to continuing its support for the regional programme office of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in Nairobi.

72. The lack of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism should not be an excuse for lethargy in implementing existing frameworks and instruments. Cooperation was needed to ensure that detection and response capacities were adapted to the ever-changing technologies used by terrorists to recruit young people via social media. States must be innovative in their preventive measures, including countering terrorist narratives, promoting inclusive community engagement and addressing illicit financial flows. Member States should combat terrorism by all means consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant Security Council resolutions and their obligations under international law.

73. **Ms. Kupradze** (Georgia) said that her delegation strongly condemned the unjustified, unprovoked and premeditated full-scale military aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, in blatant violation of international law, which continued to cause immense suffering to the Ukrainian people, displacement and a humanitarian crisis. It also condemned the indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure. Her country was committed to collective efforts to enhance the mechanisms to counteract perpetually evolving terrorist threats. It had made substantial revisions to its Criminal Code to bring it into line with international norms. Its national counter-terrorism strategy and action plan for 2022–2026 was based on a whole-of-society approach involving central and local authorities, the public and private sectors, and civil society. Georgia had criminalized travel by foreign terrorist fighters in accordance with Security Council resolutions and strengthened its border security.

74. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy included not just security measures but also provisions that protected human rights and the rule of law. The review process for the Strategy was crucial for

adapting it to new challenges. Georgia was a party to 14 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and had concluded over 30 cooperation agreements with other countries and with specialized European Union agencies. It had signed agreements on the exchange and protection of information with 24 countries, NATO and the European Union.

75. The illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia by the Russian Federation prevented her Government from carrying out its activities throughout the territory of Georgia. The occupied regions were beyond her Government's control and inaccessible to international monitoring mechanisms. 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.

76. **Mr. Saranga** (Mozambique) said that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, civilization or ethnic group and that no country could eradicate terrorism by itself. His delegation was committed to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and existing international instruments, and supported the convening of a high-level United Nations conference to formulate a joint international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The convening of such a conference should not necessarily depend on prior finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, although Mozambique did indeed support such a convention.

77. At the regional level, Mozambique supported the Southern African Development Community counter-terrorism strategy and plan of action and the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the protocol thereto. The Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money-Laundering Group and the Financial Action Task Force had agreed to remove Mozambique from their "grey list" following a mutual evaluation conducted by both entities. His country had completed a review of its domestic counter-terrorism legislation and was working on new legal frameworks for combating terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. As a Security Council member for the 2023–2024 period and as President in March 2023, Mozambique made sure that the Council paid due attention to the threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security. His delegation expressed gratitude for the counter-terrorism support provided by the United Nations, regional organizations and friendly countries to Mozambique.

78. **Mr. Ouro-bodi** (Togo) said that terrorism had been on the increase in West Africa generally and in his country's north in particular. As the terrorist threat was expanding in Africa and taking a worrying turn towards the countries of the Gulf of Guinea, Togo preferred to coordinate its actions with its regional and international partners in order to find a collective and decisive response to the scourge. His delegation therefore welcomed the consensus adoption of General Assembly resolution [77/298](#) on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which helped to bolster regional, subregional and national strategies.

79. His country's national strategy to combat violent extremism for the 2022–2026 period was based on promoting peace and social cohesion, strengthening governance and the rule of law, and encouraging inclusive economic and social development. In 2022, Togo had launched an emergency counter-terrorism programme for the Savanes region at a cost of 200 billion CFA francs. His Government wished to express its gratitude to all its partners, in particular the Office of Counter-Terrorism, for their assistance and called for the expansion of regional partnerships.

80. Togo unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Terrorism constituted a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights, in particular the right to life. States should refrain from providing any political, diplomatic, moral or material support to terrorism, and should prevent persons who perpetrated, organized or facilitated terrorist acts from abusing refugee or any other legal status. Community leaders and religious officials needed to be enlisted in countering terrorist narratives. The Office of Counter-Terrorism should work to ensure that the counter-terrorism actions of the United Nations were even more consistent and effective, including by providing capacity-building assistance to States, at their request, tailored to their specific situations, with due consideration for national ownership.

81. **Mr. Ajmal** (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation was compelled to respond to the statements made by the delegation of a country that was a chronic violator of international law. The question of the illegally occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognized dispute that remained on the agenda of the Security Council, which had decided that the final disposition of the territory would be determined by its own people through a United Nations-supervised plebiscite. However, the occupation forces were trying to suppress

the Kashmiri right to self-determination and freedom with a brutal crackdown and draconian laws. Since 1989, over 100,000 Kashmiris had been killed and a systemic colonial settler project was in the works.

82. It was deeply worrying that the platform provided by the Committee was being used to make a mockery of the thousands of innocent lives that Pakistan had lost to terrorism. Indeed, horrific attacks had been carried out just a few days earlier, taking the lives of more than 60 Pakistanis. Questioning that victimhood only reflected the sickening behaviour that had been put on display by that country, a known State sponsor of terrorism. While that country's terrorist franchise was once confined to its immediate neighbours, it had now gone global to third countries. Pakistan had concrete evidence of its sponsorship of the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan and Balochistan Liberation Army terrorist organizations. That country would continue to expand its terrorist franchise and to violate international law until its sense of impunity was eliminated. The world must stop giving that country a free pass for strategic reasons.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.