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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[6 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Global Counter-Terrorism Management

Terrorism is an international issue and the importance of the threats posed by it is now increasing. The globalization of the phenomenon of terrorism requires the globalization of counter-terrorism management. Given that terrorism is a global issue and that all nations of the world are suffering from it, the system of action and reaction against it cannot be left to a small and handful of international actors and we cannot rejoice in the achievements of such a process. Undoubtedly, this issue requires global concerns, global management and participation; and all individuals and groups who suffer from terrorism should take part in this participatory system. The experience of the so-called international community against terrorism, over the past years, has indicated that there are still fears of assassination in the same style, as in the past; and perhaps even more than the past. Thus, one may arrive at the conclusion that the counter-terrorism management methods have not been able to eradicate terrorism, as it has been so far. Of course, it goes without saying and it is evident that effective results cannot be expected when the strategic claimants of the global counter-terrorism system are themselves agents and supporters of governmental and non-governmental terrorism. The world should take lesson from these bitter experiences of uncoordinated and instrumental management. This lesson-taking, in the field of counter-terrorism, is even more worthy of reflection.

Given that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as an official international body which may reflect and describe the official joint positions of the Islamic countries, a study of its positions on terrorism could help to provide an overview of the Islamic world's attitude towards this bitter phenomenon. Numerous documents of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation have discussed the issue of terrorism and on the ways to fight against it. From amongst this collection, the document of the "Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation on Combating International Terrorism", which was adopted on the basis of Resolution 59/26, is of special importance, which has been implemented since November 2002. This Convention deals with almost all issues related to the phenomenon of terrorism, its definitions, how governments cooperate, and its judicial issues, and has created a favorable environment for combating terrorism and distinguishing it from independence movements and the liberation of national territories.

The Institute for the Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR) profoundly believes and declares that the fight against terrorism requires fundamental and comprehensive solutions and strategies. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the biggest victim of terrorism with more than 17,000 martyrs in terrorist attacks. Many terrorist groups (especially the MKO-MEK) assassinated people in the streets in the 1960s including children, men and women and the elderly and other innocent people. In recent years, many Iranian officials and scientists, including martyr General Soleimani and Dr. Fakhri-zadeh, have been assassinated in an inhumane act. The Islamic Republic of Iran, within the framework of its international obligations, constantly continues its efforts to prevent and effectively fight terrorism in all its forms and instances.

We believe that, at first, international human rights organizations must take their share of the universal responsibility to combat terrorism and ensure world peace for all human beings. We, as civil society, expect human rights organizations to provide credible solutions to save peoples from this critical situation by carefully examining the current ongoing situation and finding the cause of the global terrorism. Regarding the formulation of an effective strategy against terrorism and its elimination, it seems that several important and core points and issues should be given special attention and emphasis.

- Any measures to prevent and respond to terrorism must comply with moral, legal and religious standards and norms. It seems that human dignity and moral, Divine and innate values should be the headline of any decision-making system against terrorism. We are all aware that this is reminiscent of one of the greatest ills of the international counter-terrorism system. Hence, what has been done in recent years in the name of counter-terrorism measures, but towards the widespread violation of human rights and humanitarian law, environmental protection standards, the imperative obligations of non-use of force and also the violation of the territorial integrity of governments, are not only in the interest of world peace and security, but also, they, themselves, have revealed manifestations of terrorism.

- Active approach and avoidance of double standards in the fight against terrorism are among the other core issues. Governments cannot be indifferent to terrorist acts that endanger the human rights and fundamental freedoms of those under their jurisdiction, and are often in violation of international law. In pursuing, prosecuting or punishing terrorists, countries may not, either forgive and neglect them, nor resort to severe and inhuman acts and behavior which are not permissible. The government has a right against terrorists, and it has a duty towards the victim and the community (nationally and internationally) to make every effort to prevent and counter acts of terrorism.

Countering terrorism must follow a logical order; an order that lies in the innate, Divine and human values. This is where the shortcomings of the international system are revealed. The international system lacks a clear and comprehensive strategy in the face of threats and violations of peace. Hence, the counter-terrorism mechanisms and measures set out in the existing international instruments have, sometimes, taken directions which are not necessarily compatible with other measures taken on other issues of world peace, but their contradictions and incompatibilities are in practice, rather, clearly visible.

-The global terrorism has already inflicted much loss and suffering to the peoples of the world. In this regard, the Western society has sought to make the "Western counter-terrorism approach" superior, more rational, more orderly and more civilized than the "Eastern approach", which, in fact, has always been the case with Muslims. With such a state of global analysis of terrorism, not only must terrorist movements be vigorously combated, but the institutionalization of such a philosophy and thinking must be strongly opposed and eradicated. Therefore, the first step in suppressing global terrorism is to bring about a change of mindset in the politics of the Western world in linking terrorism with the Islamic world.

- The generalization of the term "terrorism" to Islam is one of the greatest harms in the fight against terrorism, which will contribute and lead to the spread of Islamophobia. The danger is that some Western media and officials portray radical terrorist groups as symbols of Islam; hence, regrettably, they deal with the meaning of the term terrorism, with different and even contradictory definitions. The rise of Islamophobia and accusing all Muslims of being "terrorists" is the fruit of this approach and type of thinking. While in Islam, like all other religions, extremists are in the minority, it is not fair to blame the terrorist acts of some extremists on all Muslims and intensify this threat by pursuing the dangerous project of Islamophobia instead of eradicating the threat of global terrorism.

- International peace and security are, in fact, a collective movement that requires a global coalition. This coalition must be free from discrimination and injustice. One of the basic elements of such a coalition is to recognize the root causes and major perpetrators of global terrorism. This knowledge should not be subject to national, group, human or religious discrimination. Accordingly, there should be no discrimination in order to purge some terrorist movements from others, which is the biggest obstacle on the way toward realization of world peace and security.
