

Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea

Statement by

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On item 105: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

At the Sixth Committee of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me join the previous distinguished delegates in congratulating you for your election as the Chairperson of the Sixth Committee as well as the other members of the Bureau.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Egypt on behalf of the African Group and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on this agenda item before the Sixth Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a phenomenon with global implication to peace and security. Eritrea unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whoever it is committed. Acts of terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any single religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and due regard must be given to legitimate struggle for self determination.

For the last several years, the attempt to conclude and adopt a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism has not been possible as we continue to ponder the best possible definition of terrorism acceptable to all members of the United Nations. While the efforts of adopting the international instrument will remain a high priority, the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy with its four pillars should guide the policies and actions of the international community in combating international terrorism.

Eritrea is strongly convinced that terrorism cannot be combated by military means alone and that any action taken ought to be consistent with international law. To effectively prevent and control the spread of terrorism, equal emphasis and resources should be devoted to all the pillars, including the root causes of terrorism. Long standing conflicts, aggressions and conditions of inequality and poverty, among others, must be addressed as part of the overall counter terrorism strategy. Prudence must be exercised that the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state is not invoked under the pretext of combating terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea reiterates its commitments to continue to work at the national, regional and international level to develop and enforce effective counter-terrorism measures consistent with international law.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.