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Agenda Item 105:  
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Chair,

Terrorism targets innocent people, incites fear and constitutes a serious crime. Norway joins other countries in condemning terrorism regardless of where, when, why and how terrorist acts are committed. International terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and we need to take a long-term and integrated approach to fight it effectively.

Terrorism cannot be overcome without respect for human rights and the rule of law. This must be the starting point for all our efforts against terrorism. Democracy, freedom of speech and other fundamental freedoms are crucial for preventing the emergence of terrorism. Dialogue is needed to ensure that the moderate majority, and not the extremists at the fringes, can have its voice heard and its political will realised.

Preventing terrorism requires a comprehensive and long-term approach. We must make use of a broad range of measures, including political, economic, legal, and, if necessary, military means. And we must maintain a long-term perspective. This is at the core of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006. Norway fully supports the Strategy. We have made national implementation of the Strategy by all UN Member States the core of our long-term counter-terrorism policy.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force was set up to coordinate UN agencies to assist Member States in implementing the Global Strategy. The CTITF has functioned well, but

(Check against delivery)

we must continue to strengthen its role in capacity building and international coordination. Norway works closely with the Task Force and we support it both politically and financially. In particular, the CTITF initiative Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) has given positive results in terms of coordination at the country level. Furthermore, Norway has supported the counter-terrorism activities of UNODC, for example in building capacity in the legal systems of Member States, while promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The United Nations plays an important role in promoting increased international cooperation against international terrorism and providing a legal framework for these efforts. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of each Member State to ensure that all universal counter-terrorism instruments are implemented.

This past summer the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) visited Norway as part of the Committee's efforts to facilitate and deepen dialogue with Member States. A broad range of issues was covered and the discussions were constructive and fruitful. We now look forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Committee as it finalises its comprehensive report on its visit to Norway.

The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism entered into force in 2007. During the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit this March, Prime Minister Stoltenberg announced that Norway will ratify the Convention this year.

Chair,

Norway attaches great importance to the adoption of a comprehensive convention against terrorism. This item has been on the Sixth Committee's agenda for a long time, and we hope states will show the necessary flexibility and political will to bring this process to a conclusion. In this regard, we welcome the decision to reconvene the Ad Hoc Committee in 2013.

Thank you, Chair.