



EGYPT

مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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**Statement by Egypt on behalf of the African Group
before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
on Item 110 “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”
New York, 8 October 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group. At the outset, I wish to assure you the African group’s fullest cooperation and support throughout the work of the Committee. We thank the Secretary General for his report contained in document A/68/180.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no justification for terrorism. African States strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomever committed, including State terrorism. For no cause or grievance can terrorism be justified.

The African group strongly condemns the latest heinous terrorist attacks that occurred in various parts of the world including in the African continent. The gruesome attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya best exhibits the sense of anxiety and distress that this scourge brings to the international community as a whole and calls for enhanced cooperation and a coherent strategy both at the regional and international levels. We recognize that all nations, whether directly or indirectly affected by terrorist acts, share a common interest in being more proactive and adopting a preventive approach.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group appreciates the work done so far by the ad hoc committee in preparing a draft for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We reiterate the importance of the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism and the continued effort for that end. We further call upon all states to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. The comprehensive convention on international terrorism should, in no way deny people their right to self-determination.

The African Group reiterates its willingness to work actively with other delegations to continuously refine the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy as well as to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be given serious consideration.

Africa has long recognized the need to embark on concrete measures to counter the phenomenon of terrorism. The Organization of African Unity (OAU), succeeded by the African Union, adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in 1999, which came into force in 2002. This was followed up by a Plan of Action by an inter-governmental High Level Meeting in September 2002. In addition, the African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) was established in Algiers.

This demonstrates the international and regional commitment by African Member States to address terrorism, in particular given that a number of African States throughout the continent suffer of this scourge.

Mr. Chairman,

While expressing worry about the increase in incidences of kidnapping and hostage-taking with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, the African Group considers that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern for the international community and equally concerned that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups constitutes one of the main sources of financing of terrorism. In this regard, the African Group urges the member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist groups.

Apart from implementing concrete measures, more attention in the fight against terrorism needs to be paid to the further strengthening of inter-state cooperation. States should expand the range of assistance available in the apprehension of terrorists and in the investigation and prevention of terrorist acts.

In this context, the African Group welcomes the initiatives to encourage cooperation between the UN and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism. We appreciate the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCTI) elaborated by the African Center for study and Research on Terrorism and the United States' Africa Center for Strategic Studies. We also welcome the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on combating terrorism in West and Central Africa. All these initiatives are important ways of strengthening the capacity of African countries to adopt coordinated approaches on countering terror.

Mr. Chairman,

Measures aimed at ensuring the more effective implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and related UN resolutions as well as capacity-building in developing countries are vital for a well-functioning universal international law approach to combating terrorism.

Africa always endeavors to live up to its international obligations in the fight against terror and in the implementation of related UN resolutions. However, many of African States are hamstrung by inadequate resources and weak capacity and therefore appeal to the international community for the requisite assistance to enable them to fulfill their obligations and commitments.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.