

Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev, Chargé d'affaires a.i. and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, at the Sixth Committee of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly under agenda item 110 "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism", 4th meeting, 08 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statements made yesterday on behalf of the NAM and OIC. I would like to make few remarks in my national capacity.

We know all about the scourge of terrorism, and not from hearsay. My country has repeatedly been a target of terrorist attacks that have claimed the lives of thousands of our citizens.

The international community, including through United Nations efforts, has achieved remarkable progress in countering terrorism. At the same time, terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, as well as to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and social and economic development of all States. No country or region is immune from this scourge.

The recent heinous terrorist acts attest to the need for strengthened international actions. Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and considers that all terrorist acts constitute serious crimes; they are unjustifiable regardless of their motivation and must be unequivocally condemned and prosecuted.

Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists, separatists and other non-State actors. The accumulation of a great number of armaments and munitions in places beyond the reach of international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials to non-State actors pose a serious threat to international peace and security. That requires the scrupulous compliance by States with their international obligations, providing, inter alia, that their respective territories are not used for terrorist activity.

Priority should be given to continued implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated manner and in all its

aspects, as well as to the relevant Security Council resolutions. We stress the urgent need for prompt and effective application of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council as key instrument in the fight against terrorism. The role and work of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Security Council with the counter-terrorism mandate remain vitally important. Azerbaijan strongly supports the close cooperation and effective coordination among those Committees and their groups of experts. It is also critical that States work towards developing strategies and enhancing coordination in order to combat the terrorist activity.

We also appreciate the role of the relevant United Nations entities in facilitating technical assistance to Member States. In order to respond effectively and in a timely manner to the various security challenges posed by terrorism, it is also essential that Member States strengthen their cooperation through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms on the issue of capacity-building assistance.

The absence of a clear definition of terrorism in international law merely hampers the efforts of the international community to bring not only individual terrorists and organizations to account, but also States that promote, support or finance terrorist activities. In this regard, Azerbaijan reiterates its determination to make every effort to reach an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that will serve as an effective instrument to counter terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan has consistently and continually taken measures to implement its respective international obligations and to contribute to international counter-terrorism efforts. It was therefore no coincidence that Azerbaijan decided to focus on strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations as a central theme of its presidency of the Security Council in 2012 (see S/PV.6765). As an important outcome of that, a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/17) was adopted.

On 18 and 19 March 2013, we hosted an international conference on strengthening cooperation in preventing terrorism, which was jointly organized by the Government of Azerbaijan, the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and attended by representatives of over 50 States and international organizations, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The objective of the conference was to focus on cooperation in developing and undertaking measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, dialogue, understanding and countering stereotypes and the appeal of terrorism, and the role of international partners in building State capacity to prevent and combat terrorism (see A/67/831–S/2013/217).

Last but not least, the war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. That principle must be part of any counter-terrorism strategy. All States should be united in supporting various initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the culture of peace initiative. Strengthening cooperation within those initiatives will serve to prevent misconceptions, defamatory manifestations and deliberate labelling of religions and contribute to the efficiency of counterterrorism efforts.

Thank you.