

**Statement on behalf of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee established
by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996**

2nd meeting of the Sixth Committee, 7 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I speak on behalf of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. Let me begin by extending to you my sincere congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee. Similar sentiments go to the other members of the Bureau. We are all looking forward to a productive session of the Sixth Committee under your able leadership and guidance.

In our debate in this Committee over the coming days, we will continue our shared engagement on the question of "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". Terrorism remains a persistent problem of global concern, which flagrantly contravenes the noble principles and purposes of the United Nations, takes innocent lives and threatens international peace and security. It is a menace that must be eradicated in all of its forms and manifestations. Events in the most recent past show that terrorism remains pernicious as acts perpetrated become more daring and brazen.

It is my responsibility this morning to introduce the report of the Sixteenth session of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996. The Ad Hoc Committee met at United Nations Headquarters this Spring from **8 to 12 April 2013**.

The report is contained in document **A/68/37**, and it consists of three Chapters and three Annexes.

Following past pattern, the introductory **Chapter I** contains factual and technical information regarding the mandate of the Committee, the opening of the session, the composition of the Bureau, the agenda, and the relevant documentation before the Ad Hoc Committee

Chapter II provides a description of the proceedings of the Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee held its 49th and 50th plenary meetings on 8 and 12 April, respectively.

Consistent with previous practice, the Ad Hoc Committee transacted most of its business in informal consultations and informal contacts. The informal consultations and informal contacts focused on issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Informal consultations were also held on the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations. Pursuant to resolution 67/99, the Ad Hoc Committee was mandated to address these two items.

As I have mentioned, the report includes three annexes. These provide details of the discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee.

Annex I reproduces the Preamble and articles 1, 2 and 4 to 27 of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism prepared by the Bureau. It represents the stage of consideration reached during the Sixteenth session of the Committee and it incorporates the various texts previously contained in A/C.6/65/L.10, annex I, for discussion. It is understood that further consideration will be given to the texts in future discussions, including on outstanding issues.

Annex II contains the Written proposals in relation to the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention. These proposed texts also represent the stage of consideration reached during the Sixteenth session of the Committee and it is understood that further consideration will also be given to these written amendments and proposals, together with all other written and oral proposals, in future discussions, including on outstanding issues.

Annex III contains an Informal summary prepared by the Chair on the exchange of views during the session. It comprises three sections. These reflect general comments that were made,

comments on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; and comments on the question of convening a high-level conference.

It may be noted that the section on the draft comprehensive convention includes the text of a draft accompanying resolution previously proposed by the Coordinator on the outstanding issues in 2011 (A/C.6/66/SR.28) for discussion. The only difference in the text is in the title of the draft instrument, which has been changed following discussions among the Friends of the Chair.

As is generally understood, the informal summaries contained in Annex III are for reference purposes only and are not a record of the discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

Chapter III of the report contains the recommendation that the Committee adopted at the conclusion of its meeting. Noting that more time was required to achieve substantive progress on the outstanding issues, the Committee decided to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, that is next year, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of

convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

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Mr. Chairman,

The Sixteenth session provided us with an opportunity to renew our engagement in relation to the issues concerning the draft convention, and the high-level conference. Coming, as it did, following a break in the meetings of the Committee, it offered a chance for delegations to return to deliberations and reach general agreement on the outstanding issues.

Unfortunately, delegations were unable to make further progress during the session. While many of us have expressed a sense of disappointment that we have not yet been able to resolve the outstanding issues, in particular with regard to the draft convention, it is important to acknowledge the progress that has been achieved. In the discussions among the Friends of the Chair and with delegations, it was considered important to include in the annexes to its report, the "Preamble and articles 1, 2 and 4 to 27 of the draft comprehensive convention" and the "Written proposals in relation to the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention". With its annexes, the report conveys, in one comprehensive document, the stage of consideration reached thus far on the draft comprehensive convention, and in this sense it represents an important reference for future deliberations.

It was also noteworthy that delegations continued to view the 2007 elements of a possible package as a viable option to reaching consensus on the draft comprehensive convention. During the Sixteenth session of the Committee, delegations repeated their willingness to work on the basis of that proposal in the attempt to solve the impasse that presently exists.

As we begin our general debate on the current item, it is crucial that we find a way to productively move our work forward. As I have noted, the Committee has recommended the formation of a working group to consider the outstanding issues at the sixth-ninth session of the General Assembly, and by doing so, the Committee has given us hope even though agreement has eluded us thus far. I would urge us to use the current debate to engage in a constructive and fruitful discussion, so that we may move closer to our *important objective*. In this connection, I would recall for delegations the words of the Chairman from the conclusion of the Sixteenth session, where he stated, and I quote:

As we leave today, we might perhaps wonder: Are the issues at stake so insurmountable that it can take us all these years without reaching any agreement? I am optimistic that as time passes on [and] as memories of disappointment recede, we shall come back reinvigorated to make a difference and give concrete meaning to the sentiment that we have all expressed on one occasion or another during this arduous process: We

attach importance to the conclusion of a draft comprehensive convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Time has passed and we have now returned to our important work. Let us put our disappointments aside, embrace an optimistic outlook and face the challenge. As you are all aware, the General Assembly has a vital legislative task pursuant to article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations and, in the past, this Committee has ably and admirably assisted the Assembly in fulfilling its responsibilities. In this context, the importance of the comprehensive convention has been highlighted by many delegations over the years. What we can do, and, indeed, what we must do, at this point in the process is to summon the necessary political will to overcome the obstacles that lay before us. The conclusion of the comprehensive convention will serve to strengthen the existing multilateral legal framework for combating international terrorism and its future is in our hands.

This concludes the introduction of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Thank you.