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STATEMENT

BY

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AGENDA ITEM 110:

"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

SIXTH COMMITTEE

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election to steer this committee during this 68th session of the General Assembly. We assure you of our full support. From the onset, Kenya would like to align herself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement by the distinguished delegate of Iran.

Mr. Chairman,

This debate on measures to eliminate international terrorism may not have come at a more opportune time for Kenya. As you are aware, we are just coming to terms with the heinous and cowardly attack at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi which occurred on 21st September and which the Al-Qaida linked extremist group Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for. My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Member States that have expressed their solidarity and extended goodwill to us following this attack.

Mr. Chairman,

There have been a number of terrorist attacks in churches and entertainment places in the North Eastern part of Kenya before and after the Westgate attack, which did not receive as much international media attention. However, they too cost lives and caused damage to property and were condemned in equal measure by Kenyans. Even though the extremist group Al-Shabaab responsible for these attacks have vowed to continue such attacks until Kenyan troops leave Somalia, these attacks only strengthen our resolve in the war against terrorism and Kenya will continue with its international obligations not only to ensure peace and security in Somalia but in the region as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition, around the same time as the Nairobi attack, the international community witnessed similar senseless terrorist attacks in Nigeria, Pakistan and Iraq. This is a clear indication that extremist groups the world over are adopting new strategies in spreading violent extremism. Terrorist acts cannot be condoned, or justified in any way whatsoever, as they constitute flagrant violations of human rights and international law. Such acts also endanger national, regional and international peace and security. Kenya as other members of the international community condemns and rejects the use of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as we believe that terrorism cannot be justified for whatever reasons, or for whatever causes.

Mr. Chairman,

The Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region in which Kenya is situated is prone to terrorism due to a number of factors directly linked to international peace and security. These factors include; regional instability due to the numerous ongoing conflicts, proliferation of small arms and light weapons

(SALW), piracy off the coast of Somalia, the huge humanitarian challenge and refugee crisis created by these conflicts, organized crime, human trafficking, money laundering and illicit trade in narcotics and ivory, among other factors. The effective tackling of these challenges has a direct bearing on countering terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation reaffirms Kenya's commitment to all the regional and international instruments established to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism. Key among these are the 13 existing international instruments on countering terrorism. Of particular importance is Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005) which deals specifically with the issue of incitement, and resolution 1373 (2001) which established the UN Counter Terrorism Committee as well as the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), with which Kenya has a constructive engagement, especially in terms of institutional and capacity building initiatives.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya has been a victim of three major terrorist attacks in the past two decades, starting with the 1998 terrorist bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the 2002 attack on the Israeli owned Paradise hotel at the Kenyan coastal resort near the city of Mombasa and the recent Westgate attack. Kenya would therefore like to take this opportunity to underscore the need to enhance international cooperation and coordination to fast track the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My delegation lauds the creation of the UN Centre for Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT) and the work being done by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in this regard. Kenya also appreciates the role played by UNODC in the area of capacity building. However, much more remains to be done in terms of enhancing coordination between these institutions to effectively support regional and national efforts to counter-terrorism and develop a coherent and effective international strategy in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of its obligations in implementing the Global Strategy and also to ensure regional and international peace and security, Kenya has among other measures legislated anti-terrorism law, created a National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) and an Anti-terrorist Police Unit (ATPU). On the regional front, Kenya continues to play a vital role as a peacemaker in Somalia through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and in conflict mediation in the region through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Kenya is also working with the African Union's Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and is a member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG).

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the recent attack in Nairobi, Kenya reiterates her commitment in contributing to regional efforts geared towards seeking peace and stability in Somalia through an integrated approach, working within the umbrella of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other international actors, in supporting the Federal Government of Somalia. The United Nations and the international community at large needs to remain seized with the objective of tackling the terrorist threats emanating from Somalia; and strengthening the focus of the international community in efforts to disrupt terrorist and piracy networks and their illicit financial flows. Further to this, there is need to support pro-active and effective information exchanges among Member States, with a view to bringing to justice the key leaders of these criminal and extremist networks.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation would like to point out several other important areas which we feel need more attention if the international community is to succeed in eliminating international terrorism. First is the effective implementation of the various conventions and protocols countering terrorism and extremism, especially those promoting inter-religious and inter-faith dialogue among different civilizations. At the same time, measures to counter-terrorism should focus on safeguarding the subversion of educational and religious institutions by extremist groups.

Secondly, there is need to support capacity building within national and regional mechanisms to combat terrorism. In this regard, more well resourced regional institutional frameworks should be created to enhance security cooperation and coordination.

Thirdly, more efforts should be made to support local communities, the private sector, the civil society and the media to create greater awareness and sensitization within communities, about the threat of terrorism and more effective ways identified of tackling this threat.

Fourthly, the root causes of terrorism such as; religious intolerance, abject poverty, unemployment, political instability and radicalization should be tackled in tandem with the specific causes by promoting mediation, peace-building and economic empowerment among vulnerable groups, especially in the developing world.

Mr. Chairman,

Last but not least, my delegation would once again like to reiterate its commitment to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its attendant instruments and mechanisms. In the same breath, my delegation would like to call upon all Member States to double their efforts to bridge the differences remaining towards the finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

I Thank You.