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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Ambassador Eden Charles

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of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

to the United Nations

on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

on

Agenda Item 107 -

"Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"

in the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee)

United Nations, New York
October 7, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this Statement on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

We congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the affairs of the 6th Committee for this session of the General Assembly.

CARICOM also aligns itself with the statements delivered by Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman, during the 69th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly, several CARICOM leaders and Foreign Ministers condemned the scourge of terrorism. You can, therefore, rest assured of the support of CARICOM as the Committee deliberates on all items on its agenda during this 69th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In this regard, we are hopeful that the Committee would continue to reaffirm its commitment to fully supporting all international efforts aimed at eliminating the scourge of international terrorism.

It is CARICOM's view that multilateral action, agreed to under the aegis of the United Nations is the most credible and legitimate way to tackle one of the most serious challenges facing the international community. A challenge which has implications for the survivability of nations affected, good governance and the sustainable development of all Member States.

Terrorism attacks the very values which lie at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations, namely, respect for human rights, the rule of law and tolerance among peoples and nations. In this context, CARICOM recognizes that all acts of terrorism are unjustifiable and are flagrant violations of the principles of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM expresses its deep concern over the threats posed by recent international terrorist activities. These atrocious activities have undermined the very fabric of the affected societies and have inflicted a deep sense of terror and insecurity on the civilian populations, including the most hapless victims; namely women and children.

In combating international terrorism, Mr. Chairman, CARICOM underscores that pursuant to UNGA Resolution 68/119, it is important that all States adopt measures which comply with international law, particularly international Human Rights Law, International Refugee Law and International Humanitarian Law in the fight against terrorism. Counter-terrorism strategies adopted outside the parameters of international law can potentially blur the line between measures taken to fight terrorism and those taken to promote it.

We also welcome the Report of the Secretary General of A/68/841 on measures taken to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism and Strategy. CARICOM supports the observations and recommendations of this report and submits that worldwide solidarity is crucial to combating terrorism.

CARICOM reiterates that this global strategy must include the finalization of negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Too much time has been squandered on this important matter due to the failure of a few States to resolve their political differences and agree on, for example, the definition of terrorism. The only beneficiaries of this protracted failure to adopt a comprehensive Convention on terrorism have been the international criminals who continue to carry out their crimes with impunity.

In our view, the Convention would have the stamp of approval of all Member States and be a formidable arsenal in the battle against international terrorism. The Convention would facilitate, among other things, measures relating to the prosecution of terrorists and the strengthening of the institutional capacity of States, especially small States in order to successfully confront terrorism.

We also recognize the essential role played by seminars and other events aimed at sensitizing and enhancing the capacity of States to deal effectively with all facets of terrorism. For these reasons, we continue to avail ourselves of the workshops organized by the Counter-Terrorism Task Force. We also recognize the benefits of regional coordination in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and have been hosts to workshops organized by UN-LIREC and the CARICOM Secretariat geared towards enhancing our capacity to implement the provisions of that resolution aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

Much has been said over the years about the utility of convening a high-level conference on terrorism. While CARICOM does not view the hosting of such a conference, as a prelude to the finalization of the text of the draft convention, we submit that it could provide a useful opportunity for Member States to interact with representatives of the various counter-