Mr. President,

SUDAN STATEMENT

Before

UN High-level Conference of heads of counter-terrorism agencies of the Member States of the United Nations on

Enhancing Global Action to Prevent Violent Extremism Including Through Involving the Youth and Preventing Terrorists from Using New Technologies and the Internet

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New York - June, 29, 2018

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The phenomenon of terrorism and extremism leading to terrorism constitutes a global challenge. Sudan’s location increases its vulnerability to the dangers of this phenomenon. However, the Sudan has adopted a unique and creative approach to grapple with that phenomenon and avoid it. This is by no means a substitute for measures of conventional combating which must be taken to protect national security. Yet, the new approach surpasses those measures through its treatment of the roots of terrorism as well as the results it achieves in the long run.

In collaboration with United Nations Development Program, the Sudan conducted a detailed study of the case of extremism leading to terrorism in preparation for encountering it. It is also elaborating a draft national strategy to combat extremism leading to terrorism being one of the 25 year-long-strategy requisites codifying the maintenance and protection of Sudanese national security and reflecting the United Nations and the international community’s contribution, for world solidarity and cooperation, to neutralizing the phenomenon of extremism leading to terrorism. In line with the studies undertaken in the Sudan, the following are among the salient reasons for embracing extremism leading to terrorism: concepts relating to Caliphate (succession), belief in the concepts promoted by those groups and for economic reasons. The ideological factor, the fulfillment of duties and making financial gains are also among the most important causes of continuing along the path of extremism. As for the sentiments connected with joining radical groups, they revolve mainly around hope, and anger emanating from feelings of injustice and frustration over the current reality prevailing in the region and external interferences. Unemployment is rife among those who join such organizations in the rural areas. However, university and high school students in the cities have the lion’s share of affiliation to these radical trends. They are mainly in their twenties. Friends and the internet prove to be the most influential means of recruitment and persuasion.

The Sudan has been exerting appreciable efforts to combat this phenomenon. It elaborates plans and strategies. It undertakes necessary endeavors in this connection by all means possible to absorb all pertinent organs and stakeholders, be they official, societal or through intellectual dialogue with
those who take ideology as a pretext to perpetrate such crimes as killing, settling scores and rejecting others’ views and visions. Furthermore, the Sudan cooperates considerably with its regional neighbors as well as at the international level through its varied partnerships with a large number of actors in the field.

The cardinal factor that has so far led to protecting Sudan’s society from terrorism and extremism leading to terrorism be it intellectual, ideological or ethnic is religious moderation in society, which demonstrates tolerance and benign treatment of the other. Despite all the above, we are wary of attempts to bring in excessive patterns of religiosity, where exorbitant sums of money are spent over propaganda and promotion of such patterns.

The Sudan made headways in the domain of encountering extremism. Part of the unique patterns presented by the Sudan on this score resides in intellectual treatment based on the fourth pillar of the global strategy to combat terrorism. It provides for the adoption of measures designed to guarantee respect for human rights of all in the course of combating terrorism and entrenching the rule of law. This is the essence of intellectual treatment in holding dialogue with prisoners, rehabilitating them and having them once again as good citizens in society. The program is built on a number of pillars; the first is direct dialogue, the second is rehabilitation and integration into society and the third is guarding society and protecting it from radical ideologies.

Mr. President,

The internet, social media and modern techniques have contributed a great deal in extending the influence of extremism leading to terrorism through sites and fora run by extremist groups by means of which they reach out to the public, propagate their radical doctrines, justify their terrorist operations, introduce their ideological outputs and obtain finance. Additionally, they depend on such actions as advocacy, recruitment, communication and polarization in the light of their attractive nature and insuperable privacy and confidentiality (for both publisher and reader of ideology). Besides, they provide expeditious, inexpensive and safer means for senders and receivers. As such, this makes it a must for states to get
hold of that new dilemma and seek solutions and precautions to avoid the dangers embedded in that phenomenon.

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**Challenges facing the fight against electronic terrorism are:**

- Absence of effective systems to curb the exploitation of social media in terrorism
- Clash of the principle of censorship with the principle of privacy and adopting the principle of full freedom in hiding users’ data from many service providers
- Friendly usage and setting up accounts with no means of detecting users depending solely on email at times
- Speedy evolution of technology and abundance of options available to terrorists
- Application of different laws in different countries and lack of cooperation as a result of political, religious and customary differences
- Dissemination of free, cryptic internet programs (IP) and their being user friendly, and
- Inability to pinpoint the intentions of the terrorist element at the suspicion phase since it is difficult to analyze published materials

**Measures to be taken to encounter challenges:**

- Standardization of anti-terrorism laws and methods of its proliferation among states, especially in regards to extradition of the accused
- Establishing universally standard data base to combat terrorism, increase cooperation, information and expertise exchange
- Activating information security laws internationally
- The need for organizing the activities of the companies which provide internet services as well as those developing and possessing applications either via an international convention or even an international protocol under the aegis of the United Nations, and
• Awareness raising and fighting hatred and racism fueling notions within social media sites.

Mr. President,

Despite the efforts made in so-called combating extremism leading to terrorism, so far there is no explicit or specific definition of extremism. Nor is there a clear-cut trait that distinguishes it from terrorism. Therefore, we must link any mention of extremism with extremism leading to terrorism because it is distinct from any other type of intolerance or radicalism which cannot be qualified as violence and terrorism. The bulk of the proposed programs and draft resolutions seems to target specific religion and certain geographic region. This runs counter to the strategy itself and to General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Non-definition of terrorism results in targeting certain entities and institutions branding them terrorist for reasons unrelated to terrorism. This gives rise to massive risks, not least of which is the nonchalance shown by the targeted subjects. War is thus being launched against opposite political tenets and cultures and war against actual terrorism loses its credibility.