

*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Statement by Mr. Majed Bamyá, First Counsellor, Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the UN, before the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly in its 71st session, on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” (Agenda item 108)

While noting the lack of consensus regarding the qualifications of the Chair of this important Committee, especially in view of its mandate regarding legal matters, primarily respect of and promotion of international law, we wish to extend our congratulations to the Bureau and express our hope for a constructive and successful session that contributes to advancing the rule of law and addressing the many challenges being faced by the international community at this critical time.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the Statements of the Non-Aligned movement and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Distinguished delegates,

On this tenth anniversary of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the threat posed by terrorism has further spread globally affecting millions of innocent civilians, causing instability in numerous countries, and highlighting the need for a comprehensive and balanced implementation of the strategy across all four of its pillars.

The State of Palestine condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and terrorist acts wherever, by whomever and against whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved. While action to prevent and combat terrorism is necessary, such action must be in full compliance with international law, including the Charter, international human rights, refugee law and international humanitarian law. Those who try to justify the breach of the law in the name of security will undermine both the rule of law and security, betray the values they seek to uphold, and further fuel violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism.

Member States have repeatedly affirmed their determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures, fully aware that such endeavors will tremendously contribute to the fight against terrorism and the achievement of international peace and security. Looking at our world today we must ponder on how distant this pledge is in relation to the realities of our world, notably in the Middle East region.

The fight against terrorism starts with addressing the root causes and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and extremism. Oppression, repression, discriminations, and injustice all foster hate and resentment and facilitate terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment. We have warned in this regard of the potential of seeing a political conflict resulting from the continuous breach of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which can be solved by ending the Israeli occupation and the dispossession of the Palestinian people in accordance with UN resolutions, transform due to continued Israeli colonialism, violence and provocations into a

never ending religious war exploited by extremists around the world. A threat is best addressed at its origin; failure to collectively and individually do so will only accentuate this threat and lead to its materialization.

Distinguished Delegates,

We believe that the need to fight terrorism is a matter of international consensus, as confirmed by the consensual adoption of the fifth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and should therefore not be undermined by attempts to exploit the legitimate fight against terrorism to suppress the right to self-determination of peoples, notably those under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation. The overwhelming majority of delegations represented here have seen at one point in history their nations' leaders portrayed as terrorists and their struggle for freedom equated with terrorism by the former colonial powers. Such accusations aimed at delegitimizing the struggle for national liberation and self-determination are at odds with international law and UN resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991. They constitute desperate attempts to justify the perpetuation of illegal colonial occupation and subjugation of a people and negation of their rights, in direct contradiction to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

Furthermore, it is important to constantly reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and constitutes a threat to all humanity. Such an association helps the terrorists and undermines counter-terrorism efforts. Here, it may be useful to recall that while no continent is immune from terrorism and all have suffered from terrorism, Asia and Africa, including the Arab world and Muslim majority countries, have, notably in recent years, the biggest numbers of victims of terrorism.

We express our solidarity with all victims of terrorism and their families wherever they are. We have a shared and collective duty to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity can help shield our communities from the threat of terrorism while discrimination, segregation, xenophobia will only foster the hatred conducive to extremism and even terrorism. Extremism fuels extremism and humanism feeds humanism. Our destinies were never this intertwined and our steps must move us away from the path to global doom towards shared salvation, freedom and dignity, development and prosperity.

Thank you.