

**Statement by Turkey**  
**at the Sixth Committee for the 72<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly**  
**under agenda item 109: “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”**  
**(03.10.2017)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me join other delegations in congratulating you, and other members of the Bureau of the Sixth Committee on your election and assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation.

Terrorism is a serious threat to well-being of our citizens and societies as well as international peace and security. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and pay respect to the memories of all the victims of terrorism.

**Mr Chairman,**

Since our last session in this Committee, Turkey has been among those countries suffered immensely from acts of terrorism.

My country continues its fight with the same determination against all terrorist organizations, most notably the Fethullah Gülen terrorist organization, or FETÖ, DEASH, Al Qaeda, PKK/PYD, as well as some left wing terror organizations.

Fethullah Gülen terrorist organization or FETO is a new generation of terrorist organizations, a clandestine cult, which dared to terrorize the Turkish people with a coup plot on the night of 15 July 2016.

FETÖ, the mastermind of the 15 July coup attempt against the constitutional order of Turkey, is a clear and present threat to all countries and democracies.

The instability and ongoing conflicts in our region are direct concern and pressing challenge for our national security. Turkey has been at the forefront of the fight

against DEASH from the very beginning and has been the target of multiple terrorist attacks.

We spare no efforts countering DEASH threat. 53,781 individuals are included in our no-entry list and 5,217 individuals were deported in the context of measures against foreign terrorist fighters. Our Risk Analysis Units at the airports denied entry to more than 4.000 suspected FTFs.

While we continue our fight against the DEASH threat, horrendous attacks by the terrorist organization PKK have claimed the lives of 371 civilians, as well as 1.003 law enforcement and security personnel in Turkey, for the last 2 years.

Terrorist organization PKK is active in Syria, Iraq and Europe with its affiliated entities. The counter-measures against PKK activities abroad are particularly important with a view to hindering financing, recruitment and propaganda activities. We expect our allies to maintain their stance and vigilance against PKK and its affiliated entities.

Terrorist organization PKK is trying to exploit the developments in Syria and Iraq. The organic ties between PKK and PYD/YPG is crystal clear. A terrorist organization cannot be legitimized by claiming that it is fighting against another terrorist organization.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Turkey has been calling for an effective international cooperation against terrorism for many decades. In this regard, I wish to underline the following points:

The international community must act with equal determination against all terrorist organizations. A selective approach with regard to terrorist organizations is unacceptable.

It is also imperative that all states take necessary measures so that members of terrorist organizations are brought to justice. Effective implementation of the

universal principle of “extradite or prosecute” is crucial for a collective response to terrorism.

It is regretful that members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, are allowed to abuse the right to asylum, to circumvent justice.

Bearing in mind the close link between terrorism and organized crime, which is a primary source of terrorism financing, our efforts should be sustained in order to prevent crimes such as drug trafficking, money-laundering and arms-smuggling.

I wish also to emphasize that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Turkey played a leading role in the foundation of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum and my country, together with the US, has co-chaired the Forum between September 2011 and April 2016.

My county also co-chairs the Horn of Africa Working Group within the Forum together with the European Union.

In the margins of the high-level week of the UN General Assembly, the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, at its ministerial meeting on 20 September, 2017 in New York, endorsed the Antalya Memorandum, a guiding document consisting of new ways and measures on the protection of soft targets from terrorist attacks.

The Antalya Memorandum is the product of a year-long process, kicked-off in Antalya under the co-leadership of Turkey and the US, and elaborated through a number of workshops held in different countries.

Turkey is an active member of the Anti-DEASH Coalition and co-chairing the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group within this coalition.

Over the years, Turkey also concluded bilateral agreements with more than over 70 countries around the world in the field of counter terrorism. These agreements provide the legal basis for bilateral cooperation against terrorism.

Furthermore, Turkey actively contributes to counter terrorism capacity-building programs of several countries around the world.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We see the UN as the main platform for promoting a collective and coherent response against terrorism and violent extremism.

Turkey is party to most of the UN conventions and protocols on terrorism. We attach great importance to the implementation of UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars. We actively contribute to the work and capacity building efforts of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We welcome the establishment of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and the appointment of Under-Secretary-General Mr Vladimir Voronkov.

In concluding my remarks, I reaffirm Turkey's full commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We look forward to work closely with Member States, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and other stakeholders to enhance our collective response against terrorism and violent extremism.

Thank you