

**Statement
by**

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Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations
Before
The Sixth Committee**

73rd session of the General Assembly

**Under Agenda Item 111
“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your deserving election. Kindly rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation towards a successful conclusion of the work of the Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the distinguished representative of Gambia on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

At the beginning, I would like to reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

This debate is yet another opportunity to reaffirm our determination to pursue our collective efforts aiming at preventing and combatting terrorism and violent extremism and at the same time to continue to warn against all misconceptions and the tendentious association of terrorism with a religion, a civilization, or a geographical area. For us, the struggle against violent extremism and terrorism must also include the fight against xenophobia and islamophobia, which are emerging as new forms of violent extremism.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite recent defeats, terrorism remains a global threat to which no country is immune. This scourge is showing a great capacity for mobility, adaptation and innovation, namely in its *modus operandi*. Thus, the need to intensify our global efforts to counter-terrorism is more and more pressing.

Algeria welcomes the efforts of the Secretary General in strengthening the UN Secretariat action in the field of counter-terrorism and violent extremism, and commends the work of the newly established Office of Counter-Terrorism headed by Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov. We welcome, in this regard, the convening of the first ever United-Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, last June, as well as its intended impact on strengthening the international community's counter-terrorism efforts.

We would like to stress again our support to the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy with its four pillars. We welcome, in this regard, the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution on the Sixth review of the Strategy. We are particularly pleased to see the reaffirmation in this year's Resolution of Member States determination to continue to do all that 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 the rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures. It is also important that the resolution recognizes the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters to international peace and security.

For its part, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) proved to be a useful institution which adds value to the UN counter-terrorism and violent extremism efforts, and which is becoming one of the key counter-terrorism mechanisms. We also support, in this regard, the Plan of action to prevent violent extremism.

Mr. Chairman,

International efforts are still to be complemented and strengthened as the devastating scourge of terrorism is still growing and expanding its operations, thus endangering innocent lives everywhere in the world.

This can be partly achieved by advancing the work of the General Assembly, through its Sixth Committee towards the finalization of the comprehensive convention to combat international terrorism. In this regard, my delegation stresses the need to agree upon an accurate definition of terrorism, in accordance with the UN Charter and International Law, and avoid any confusion between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.

We also welcome the convening of the high-level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a common stand to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Such a Conference, called for in several General Assembly resolutions, would highly contribute to overcoming the remaining outstanding issues and reaching the required consensus for a comprehensive convention to combat international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups aiming to raise funds or gain political concessions, remains a disquieting issue. We welcome the significant progress made towards the prohibition of the payment of ransoms. The efforts undertaken in this regard with our partners culminated during the Fourth biennial review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by calling all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions, a call that was further reiterated in the last review of the Strategy, in June of this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria strongly believes that preventing and combating terrorism still require mobilization and multifaceted cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. It is clear that this battle cannot be limited exclusively to repressive measures, but needs to deploy, upstream and downstream coherent political strategy.

Having suffered from the devastating effects of terrorism during the 1990s, Algeria emerged as a safe and stable country in a region prone to instability and terrorist threat. Hence, we maintain a high level of vigilance and commitment in the fight against terrorism and deradicalization.

This commitment focuses on the implementation of policies, strategies and development programs geared towards the fight against factors of exclusion, marginalization, stigmatization and social injustice, often exploited by terrorist propaganda for mobilization and recruitment purposes, as well as promoting democracy, national reconciliation, deradicalization, human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance and living together in peace, as effective antidote to violent extremism and terrorism. Securing our borderline and pursuing the fight against residual terrorism are also part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy.

At the regional level, Algeria has developed a strong bilateral cooperation with its neighbouring countries in key areas related to the fight against terrorism, mainly through

sharing its experience, thus contributing actively to the stability and security of the countries of the region.

In the Sahel region, Algeria continues to deploy every effort to enhance full coordination and cooperation. The current context requires both coordinating and strengthening the capacities of the countries of the region on the basis of national ownership. Algeria is engaged in a concerted approach through several mechanisms of cooperation, such as the Countries of the Field, the Joint Operational General Staff Committee (CEMOC), the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL) for the Sahel, and other Fora which contribute extensively in enhancing security cooperation between the Sahel countries, through coordinating and strengthening border control measures, as well as intelligence sharing.

At the African level, Algeria hosts the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL), which will hold its second General Assembly this month in Algiers, as well as the African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), an African Union body that offers a high level of expertise in the fight against terrorism. Also, the high position of AU's Coordinator for the prevention and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, is assumed by the President of the Republic H.E.Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika. It is within this context that a High-level meeting on countering terrorism financing in Africa was organized in Algiers, last April. Financing, besides ideological propaganda developed by terrorist groups and their sponsors, via Darknet and encrypted platforms, remains key for radicalization and recruitment, especially amongst the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Mr. Chairman,

In its capacity of co-chair with Canada of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) Capacity-Building in the West Africa Region Working Group (WAWG), Algeria is an active member in this Forum that is progressively becoming an important platform for dialogue, exchange and development of standards, good practices and tools to improve the effective common fight against terrorism.

The Ninth GCTF Ministerial Meeting, held, last September, endorsed four new useful GCTF Framework Documents addressing Homegrown Terrorism, the Challenge of Returning Families of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, the Collection, Use and Sharing of Evidence, and the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism.

The last theme was thoroughly discussed during a meeting organized, in Algiers, in October 2017, by Algeria and Canada, on the Nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime in West Africa.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Algeria remains actively engaged in efforts to counter-terrorism and violent extremism at all levels and will contribute constructively to advance the efforts aiming to put an end to terrorism including through the work of the 6th Committee.

I thank you.