

Republic of Korea

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (agenda 111)

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to congratulate you and all of the other members of the bureau on your election to this important committee. I assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation in making this session a fruitful one. Also, I would like to thank the codification division for its tireless efforts and the Secretary-General for preparing the report on this agenda, Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea condemns all forms and manifestations of terrorism, and reiterates that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever committed.

We would also like to reaffirm that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group, and that all counter-terrorism measures should be in compliance with international law, in particular, international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chair,

Emerging new threats and evolving trends of international terrorism make it more difficult for national governments, regional bodies, and the international community to deal with the scourge of terrorism. However, at the same time, enormous efforts are being made to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism on various levels.

In this context, my delegation would like to commend the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) since its establishment last year, and also the work of the

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and other relevant UN bodies in this field.

We welcome the convening of the first UN High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies held last June, which proved to be timely and productive. Moreover, the Korean Government notes with appreciation the recently signed UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and entrusts that this Compact will enhance coordination and coherence among the relevant UN bodies and other members of the Compact in tackling this difficult task.

The Republic of Korea is fully aware that Member States have the primary responsibility in countering terrorist acts and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The Korean Government is actively participating in joint efforts to counter terrorism at the national, regional, and international levels.

At the national level, we established an important legal framework, the Anti-Terrorism Act, in 2016. In the same year, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and Counter-Terrorism Center were established to oversee the full implementation of the law. I am pleased to announce that my Government adopted a National Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) this January. Based on this Plan of Action, we are committed to encouraging community dialogue and engagement, empowering youth, and preventing misuse of the internet and other media by terrorist groups.

At the regional level, my country is making continuous efforts to facilitate inter-regional dialogue and information-sharing on PVE. Last April in Seoul, we held the Inter-Regional Conference on PVE in close cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The conference gathered participants from Asia and Europe, and provided a valuable opportunity to share experiences and best practices between the two regions. Furthermore, my Government co-hosted the

Asia ICT and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue, in partnership with the UN CTED and the government of Thailand this January. It provided a meaningful forum for governments and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Asia and Europe to discuss ways to respond to the misuse of ICT for terrorist purposes.

The Republic of Korea is a staunch supporter of international efforts in this field as well. We are parties to most of the international conventions regarding counter-terrorism and are also fully committed to implementing all relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 2178 and 2253. The Republic of Korea is providing capacity-building training opportunities to FATF and FSRB member countries on anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) through the FATF Training and Research Institute (FATF TREIN) in Busan, Korea, as well as supporting the UN OCT, in its PVE capacity-building endeavors.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea is participating as a partner in the Tech-Against-Terrorism Initiative of the UN CTED. Recently, the Korean Government sponsored the launch of the Knowledge Sharing Platform, part of the CTED-led initiative, which assists small tech companies in assessing and mitigating their risks of being exploited by terrorists and while providing guidelines for content regulation.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation is of the view that preventing the spread of violent extremism is key in curbing future terrorism. In this regard, a renewed focus should be placed on the first pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, namely “Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism.”

My delegation would like to echo the other delegations in stressing the importance of engaging communities and empowering youth to make society more resilient to terrorism and violent extremism. Prioritizing education, particularly Global Citizenship Education, can help aid such efforts. We hope to see increased civil society and private-sector involvement, which would help establish more creative and inclusive ways to deal with the task at hand.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea assures you of its continued effort and cooperation in countering international terrorism and making this world safer for our future generations.

Thank you.

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