



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022  
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

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## STATEMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

BY

H.E. MR. LAZAROUS KAPAMBWE  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 109:  
"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

DURING THE

SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 7, 2019  
New York, NY

**Chairperson,**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. Allow me, at the outset, to extend our warmest congratulations to you Mr. Chairman and other members of the Bureau on your election. Please be assured of the African Group's steadfast commitment and support for the important work of the Sixth Committee.

The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and, further, wishes to express gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report in document A/74/151 on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism contained.

**Chairperson,**

Terrorism and violent extremism remain one of the greatest threats to global peace and security. Whether it manifests itself at the domestic or international level; regardless of whether it is perpetrated by lone wolves or cell groups inspired by or associated with designated foreign terrorist organisations—no creed or confession, no ideology or plausible argument could ever justify even the most marginal form or expression of terrorism. Terrorism cannot and should not, therefore, be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, culture, race, or ethnic group.

Africa has had its fair share of terrorism. In fact, a recent report by the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism revealed that the continent recorded 82 terrorist attacks between 16<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 alone. According to the report, the period under review recorded 544 terrorism related deaths out of which 415 resulted directly from terrorist attacks. The remaining 129 were deaths were recorded during counter-terrorism operations by security forces. 75 per cent of these attacks occurred in the Sahel region in West Africa.

**Chairperson,**

All African States remain resolved to strongly, explicitly and consistently condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State-sponsored terrorism.

Terrorism is a brazen attack against humanity and a clear violation not only of international law but of including international humanitarian and human rights law. It is evident, from the report of the Secretary-General, that every sector of the global economy is negatively affected by the scourge. Civil aviation, maritime navigation, food and agriculture, schools and places of worship.

This places an obligation on all States to enhance the domestication and/or efficient implementation of relevant international legal instruments, the intensification of information exchange of accurate terrorism-related data, as and where appropriate, and the adoption of effective counter-terrorism measures, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law.

We urge countries that are either directly or inadvertently financing, encouraging and providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities to immediately refrain from such ill acts and join the clarion call to end terrorism in all its forms and manifestation.

**Chairperson,**

The African Group recognizes the present global efforts to combat classical terrorism, cyberterrorism and related crime. We, however, wish to reiterate the non-derogable obligation of states as it relates to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter.

The African Group notes with deep concern, that international terrorism has continued to evolve significantly. It has continued to impose its extensive presence on the Internet through messaging platforms, online images and videos, publications of manifestos, all of which are facilitating

the ability of terror cell-groups ability to radicalise and recruit individuals with a proclivity to receive extremist messaging. Social media has opened up a gateway for both international and domestic terrorists to gain unprecedented, virtual access to the hearts and consciences of potential recruits. In this regard, there is urgent need to finalise the draft Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism that will help formulate an effective response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The African Group will collaborate with other delegations to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention, in line with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Africa is also committed to fully supporting all efforts aimed at convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, that will seek to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

### **Chairperson,**

The United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy still needs refining and the African Group pledges to support its full implementation. However this will only be achievable if the United Nations Security Council fulfils its mandate by ensuring global peace and security, including assuming its responsibility to allocate adequate resources to fight terrorism in Africa.

We acknowledge, however, that the security response is only one strand in a wider tapestry of our concerted efforts to fight and defeat terrorism. The response should not lose focus of our ultimate vision, as we strive toward sustainable development in line with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. We acknowledge that there are several political, socio-cultural and economic factors that provide fertile soil upon which corrupt ideologies and radicalism may flourish: Youth unemployment or the lack of opportunities for young people, the actual or perceived sense of

exclusion or marginalisation among citizens, the adverse effects of climate change leading to the constant shrinking of critical resources.

In this vein, the African Union is working closely with the United Nations to implement a framework agreement for both peace and security and development as part of a holistic response to these shared global challenges. The United Nations, African Union as well as the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms have been increasingly working together at all levels, and on a wide range of issues. This includes capacity development, policy design and crisis response operations.

Moreover, the *African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism* in Algiers, therefore, plays a critical role in the whole process. As part of the AU Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Terrorism and assist AU member States build their Counter-Terrorism capacities, the Center is mandated to conduct research, analysis and studies on the terrorism situation and terrorist groups in Africa, maintain a terrorism database, centralise information on terrorism and sharing this with AU Member States. The African Centre also conducts assessment missions to various AU Member States in order to ascertain their Counter-Terrorism capability and compliance with International Legal instruments and then provides advice on what actions need to be taken.

These efforts are a clear manifestation of the unwavering international and regional commitment by African Member States to combat and bring to an end all forms of terrorism and violent extremism, not only in Africa but the world over.

**Chairperson,**

We cannot over-emphasise the need for the investigation of terrorism cases at the national level, including the element of terrorist financing. Thus, the adoption of systems that ensure timely exchanges of operational information by relevant institutions, particularly national financial intelligence units (FIUs), is beyond question.

The African Group considers the financing of terrorism as a matter that needs urgent attention. It is evident that without funding, terrorists cannot purchase weapons, equipment, supplies, or services. Terrorist groups use both licit and illicit sources of financing. In many cases, however, they are known to draw their finances from activities directly or indirectly linked to organized criminal groups, drugs or arms trafficking, extortion, and kidnapping for ransom. In this regard, the African Group urges Member States to thwart any attempts for groups or individuals to access financing for terrorism, including resisting the temptation to pay ransoms claimed by terrorist groups

The African Group calls upon Member States to collaborate in the pursuit of developing and implementing effective counter-narrative strategies, and the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives. The African Group welcomes efforts to bolster inter-state cooperation, and other regional and international efforts necessary to ensure the freezing of terrorist assets as an effective way to stem the flow of such funds.

### **Chairperson,**

There is no question that the battle against terrorism and violent extremism would be most effectively won where both 'hard' and 'soft' power are strategically employed. It is for this reason that the Djibouti-based *IGAD Center of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism* was established. The Center seeks to build and develop 'soft power' capacities through the empowerment of youth, women, religious leaders and civil society. It does so by enhancing their resilience and capacity to counter violent extremist ideologies; it seeks to amplify influential religious voices and critical thinking skills; prevent radicalisation to violence in prisons; and rehabilitation and re-integration of disengaged fighters, including foreign terrorist fighters. It is Africa's conviction that these combined inter-state and regional efforts will prove to be an efficient strategy to help prevent and counter both terrorism and violent extremism throughout the Continent.

**Chairperson,**

In closing, we wish to emphasise that Africa always endeavours to live up to its international obligations in combating terrorism and in its efforts to implement related UN resolutions. However, many of African States are inhibited by a lack of adequate resources capacity. We therefore appeal to the international community to provide the necessary assistance required to enable them to fulfil their obligations and commitments. Only with a solid foundation can Africa ensure a more effective implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and related UN resolutions.

**I thank you for your attention.**