



SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

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Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

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Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Since it is my Government's first time to take the floor this session, allow me to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation on your election and wish you great success. Please be assured that our delegation remains committed to supporting your efforts.

Today, we gather again to discuss the elimination of international terrorism. At the outset, I wish to convey my Government's wholehearted backing of these efforts and commitment to make a positive contribution in this domain.

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, during this past year we have witnessed, yet again, heinous acts of terrorism carried out at home and abroad by a variety of actors. We have seen new technologies and social media abused to spread and incite hatred and violence. We have also witnessed certain Governments actively funding and supporting terrorist groups, particularly in the Middle East region. And we have seen the sickening phenomenon of using innocent civilians as human shields to couch terrorist activities and provide safe havens, in stark violation of international law and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which, *inter alia*, strongly condemns the use of civilians to shield military objectives from attacks.

While certainly more can be – and needs to be – done internationally, regionally and domestically to address international terrorism, we feel that certain political and legal decisions adopted here at the United Nations this past year are a step in the right direction, and we wish to convey Israel's support and readiness to both implement the relevant recommendations, and share our experience and expertise in this field.

In particular, we note and firmly support the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2462, which calls upon Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to refrain from providing any form of support to terrorists. In this context, we wish to note briefly a number of legal steps that Israel has already undertaken to prevent the financing of terrorism, as well as certain significant milestones in this vein. These include:

- Israel's adoption of an innovative, comprehensive anti-terrorism law in 2016, that, among other things, criminalized the circles of influence that provide material and other support to terrorists and terrorist acts; and
- Israel having been given by the FATF in its national evaluation report in December 2018, the highest possible ratings in the areas of combatting terror financing and the effective use of financial intelligence. The report praised Israel's strong and extensive anti-terrorist financing institutions, positive national inter-agency coordination, and effective implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Israel also embraces the recent adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2482, which shines light upon the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, a disturbing phenomenon that we have certainly encountered in our region. The Government of Israel wishes to voice its support for efforts at all levels to strengthen a global response to such linkages, as we are committed on the domestic level to fight corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking and terrorist financing in an active manner and to securing our borders.

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish to note our positive and fruitful cooperation with the various UN counterterrorism bodies, and in particular our productive engagement with both CTED and with the UNOCT this past year.

We deeply appreciate CTED's support and co-sponsorship of the Israel Federation of Local Authorities' Muniworld International Conference, which was attended by over 150 local Israeli mayors from Jewish and Arab municipalities and a similar number of foreign leaders and dignitaries from around the world, including the mayors of Frankfurt, Kiev, St. Petersburg, Beverly Hills and Pittsburgh. That event focused on sharing good practices and Israeli expertise as to how governments, local authorities, and cities can work together with the private sector to share information on soft targets in order to identify threats, vulnerabilities, risks and mitigation measures, as well as develop enhanced investigation and response and recovery mechanisms.

We also want to express our sincere appreciation for the deepened cooperation this past year with the UNOCT. In particular, my Government wishes to acknowledge the successful country visit by USG Voronkov to Israel this past June, and to express our appreciation for the support given by his office to the regional counterterrorism workshop recently held in Israel for Eurasian States.

We look forward to further strengthening our ties and our engagement with these and other UN bodies and to continuing to contribute positively to counterterrorism efforts here at the UN, regionally and internationally.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel welcomes the upcoming review of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy to be held in June 2020, and, in particular, the emphasis that the UNOCT intends to place on the support of victims of terrorism this year. The Government of Israel -- as a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and as a nation that has faced unceasing and fatal terrorist attacks since the time of our establishment and until today -- intends to share the vast expertise and insights that we have unfortunately gained in this area throughout the years, particularly in the fields of coping with trauma and of building resiliency.

Finally, we wish to reiterate our longstanding position recognizing the need for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that would adopt a “zero tolerance” approach to terrorism in all forms and would underline the fact that - without exception – no cause or grievance could ever justify or excuse terrorism in any form or manifestation.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.