



Statement

by

H.E. Dr. Amal Mudallali

Permanent Representative of Lebanon

to the United Nations

at the

Sixth Committee

Item 109: “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”

New York, October 8, 2019

Check against delivery

Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me begin by congratulating you, as well as other members of the Bureau on your election to conduct the work of this committee and assure you of Lebanon's full cooperation. We express our gratitude to the members of the Codification division for their important work and support and we thank the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item.

Lebanon aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran of behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Terrorism remains a relentless threat looming over the entire international community. Although its forms and content may vary, its reality is universal and its reach as well as its devastating impact is increasingly worrying.

Once again, our condemnation is unequivocal as well as our reiteration that in no way can terrorism be associated with a religion, nationality or ethnic group.

Barbaric acts of terrorism place an immense burden on individuals by stripping away their basic human rights. Moreover, terrorism instills in individuals a constant state of fear and is therefore an affront to our individual freedoms.

This shared affliction should propel us to continue our global cooperation, based on the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant security council resolutions and other international legal instruments.

We should redouble our efforts to solve the outstanding issues of the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, by providing a legally unified definition of terrorism, which would help in our global and comprehensive response to it. A definition that needs to be consistent with international law, and would avoid conflation with, for instance, the legitimate right of the struggles of people under colonial and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination.

Mr. Chairperson,

Lebanon is a country bursting with religious, cultural and socio-economic diversity. The benefits brought about by this diversity are nevertheless constantly threatened by terrorist acts. Indeed, my country has long suffered from a multitude of these attacks. Lebanon's territorial sovereignty, peace, security and socio-economic stability have been scarred by such violent acts.

However, our national determination to prevent and counter terrorism as well as violent extremism conducive to it, illustrates our pledge to maintaining security and stability, in line with our obligations under international law.

This has led us to join several Counter-Terrorism Conventions. This year, my country acceded the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. This goes in line with our intensive work to combat financing of terrorism.

In this regard, the Special Investigation Commission of the Lebanese Central Bank has prioritized terrorism-financing cases. There has been a considerable rise in the number of terrorism-financing convictions issued by the relevant courts in Lebanon.

Furthermore, the Special Investigation Commission has been steadily conducting joint trainings on Terrorism Financing with the General Prosecutor's office and other relevant stakeholders. At the UN, Lebanon has recently joined the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, established by Spain and Afghanistan. It demonstrates our belief that victims' support is of paramount importance, and that they can play a significant preventive role.

Such determination is also clearly evident by our army and security forces' ongoing commendable efforts on a daily basis. More recently, an ISIS terrorist blew himself up in the city of Tripoli after being held down by our forces. This attack resulted in the death of four members of our forces – once again - attesting to the constant sacrifice they undertake.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country continues to firmly believe that root causes need to be addressed. It is obvious that radicalization, marginalization does not necessarily lead to the commission of terrorist acts, but they can create fertile ground conducive to such acts. Promoting more inclusive and tolerant societies, the rule of law, fostering economic development, empowering youth and women would pave the way for a more informed society and thus one that is less likely to be inclined towards violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Our ability to abide by human rights when confronting terrorism is constantly tested, which is why it remains imperative to comply with human rights norms.