



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Draft Statement

International Terrorism 07/08 October 2019 – Sixth Committee

Mr. President,

At the outset, kindly allow my delegation to warmly congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Sixth Committee and for having launched the deliberations of the work of this crucial committee. I wish you and your distinguished Bureau, as well as the Secretariat all the best for the long weeks ahead and assure you and your Bureau of my delegation's full support.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to align itself with the statement made by Zambia on behalf of the African Group and by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Mauritius fully subscribes to the common strategic and operational framework within the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) to fight terrorism, thus showing consistent, unequivocal and strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestation committed by whomever, wherever and whatever purpose.

Mr. President,

The threat of terrorism and the means to fight it have become a key concern for policy makers, law enforcement agencies and the population at large as the consequences often impact the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, the major challenge for Governments and law enforcement agencies is to prevent and counter terrorism and take measures that neither infringe human rights nor raises the question of its incompatibility with international human rights law and standards.

In the fight against terrorism, the Government of Mauritius has always been very careful to uphold the Human Rights of every individual as enshrined in the Constitution of Mauritius, which is the country's supreme law.

Mr. President,

Although Mauritius has so far been spared from any terrorist activity, we are fully aware that it is not immune to such a reality as the risk of being victim is ever present. And the safety and security of the Republic of Mauritius and of its population is and will always remain a key priority for the Government.

Mr. President,

Over the years, a series of preventive measures have been taken by the authorities in Mauritius to avert terrorist threats and pre-empt any conducive environment to the spread of extremist ideologies.

The mandate of our national Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) has been reinforced in order to enable it to implement the UNGCTS and in that regard, the CTU has been re-structured both technologically and human-resource wise.

A counterterrorism committee under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office also ensures that the CTU has all the necessary tools to discharge its functions as per section 19 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. It also ensures that general readiness plans in relation to counterterrorism can be activated at all levels at any given time.

Moreover, very strict measures have been taken by the Government of Mauritius in partnerships with financial institutions to counter all illegal and suspicious financial transactions to ensure that Mauritius is not used as a platform for the financing of terrorists and activities linked with terrorism.

Mr. President,

Intelligence is a key factor in countering terrorism as it can provide the means to anticipate, pre-empt, and respond to this threat. Generating actionable intelligence for effective, efficient, and timely responses is a process which involves several stages, including the collection and analysis of raw information. Interagency coordination and cooperation within the intelligence community in the fight against terrorism are therefore crucial for an effective, efficient, and timely response.

Networking is therefore a key element in the fight against terrorism, organised and transnational crimes. Accordingly, Mauritius has already undertaken concrete measures in that sphere. Cooperation in exchange of timely and accurate information and information sharing has been enhanced through the use of different tools. We have fostered ongoing bilateral cooperation with foreign counterparts and exchange of information with regional and international institutions.

In terms of capacity-building, the staff of the CTU continuously undergo training dispensed through workshops provided by foreign experts in counter terrorism-related matters.

Mr. President,

We need to look very closely at the fundamental causes of extreme radicalism and fundamentalism otherwise we will continue to remain vulnerable to this scourge until and unless the fires of hatred and nihilism are understood and extinguished. In this regard, more attention needs to be given to the reasons that attract individuals to violent extremism and groups that propagate hatred and twisted ideologies. In parallel, we should promote a culture of peace, tolerance, integration and pluralism.

Today, terrorism exists irrespective of borders and severely undermines the sovereignty of States in a way we have never seen before. Indeed, global terrorism has emerged as one of the most pressing security challenges around the world and represents a major threat to the achievement of the SDGs.

It is therefore crucial that all Member States and international organisations reinforce their cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with our obligations under international law.

I thank you for your kind attention.