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Statement by Hyunseung Lee (1st Secretary)
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (Agenda 109)
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Mr. Chair,

My Delegation would like to join other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the bureau on your elections, and I am confident that under your able leadership, the meeting of the 6th committee will produce fruitful discussions and substantive progress. Also, I would like to thank the Secretariat for its tireless efforts in preparing this meeting as well as the report on this agenda.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation holds the firm position that terrorism cannot be tolerated or justified under any circumstances. Terrorism affects every country, as well as the life of every individual. Needless to say, the Member States share the common responsibility to counter terrorist acts.

In order to effectively fight against terrorism, mitigate the harm to victims, and eradicate the root cause of terrorism, all stakeholders, including states, regional bodies, international organizations and the private sector, need to cooperate. Their commitment to implement relevant norms under international law is vital.

Mr. Chair,

As clearly described in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/74/151), various efforts have been made at all levels, in particular to prevent and combat terrorist financing and build up effective legal frameworks to criminalize terrorist acts.

My delegation would like to commend the work done by the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) as well as the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and other relevant UN bodies.

My delegation believes that our counter-terrorism efforts can be more productive if various activities are coordinated in a cohesive manner. In this regard, the Republic of Korea supports the 'Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact' which aims to enhance coordination and coherence across the UN entities on counter-terrorism, and welcomes the release of the

‘UNOCT Consolidated Multi-year Appeal for 2019-2020’ earlier this year. We believe this will help enhance the coordinating role of the UNOCT and avoid the fragmentation of UN counter-terrorism activities, and we wish to continue our contribution in this area.

Mr. Chair,

One of the new challenges we now are facing is the potential abuse of new technologies in terrorism. Terrorists and terrorist groups might exploit the internet and social media, not only to commit terrorist acts, but also to facilitate a wide range of terrorist activities. Drones, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and virtual currency are other possible means of abuse.

As a country with a high level of digital connectivity and vibrant cyber culture, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to preventing the digital space from becoming a hotbed of terrorism and violent extremism. We will also explore ways to reflect the emergence of new technologies into existing norms and adopt rules to close the impunity gaps.

We have been sponsoring ‘Tech against Terrorism (TaT)’, a joint initiative between the UN CTED and ICT4Peace, which was launched pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2354 adopted in 2017. We believe this initiative will continue to help provide practical tools for startups to combat terrorism and extremism while continually reinforcing the importance of human rights and protecting fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, as a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), my government has been collaborating with financial institutions and other non-state actors for an improved system to root out illegal financing of terrorist acts.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea is a state party to most international conventions on counter-terrorism, and is fully committed to implementing all relevant UN resolutions, including the most recent ones, Security Council Resolution 2462 and 2482, adopted earlier this year.

We have also been actively participating in regional meetings, including the ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime held this past March, and have enhanced cooperation with other states through bilateral meetings such as the Korea-EU Special Working Group meeting on Counter-Terrorism held this past June.

While implementing counter-terrorism measures, due consideration should be given to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, so it is imperative that any restrictive measures, including indictment and punishment of such crimes, should be stipulated in law. The Republic of Korea regulates terrorism through multiple legal instruments, from the ‘Criminal Act’ which is our general penal code, to the ‘Specific Financial Information Act’ which regulates money laundering and other illegal financing. In order to avoid fragmentation

and duplication, my Government enacted 'Anti-terrorist Act' in 2016, so that the national counter-terrorism efforts can proceed in a more coherent way.

In accordance with the 'Anti-terrorist Act', my government has established the National Counterterrorism Committee as well as the Counterterrorism Center. The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and consists of 20 relevant ministries and governmental bodies, serving as a control tower for creating counter-terrorism strategies and plans, sharing information, and reviewing ongoing activities. The Committee held two meetings this year, and discussed counterterrorist measures for important national events, while adopting a new ordinance on terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

Once again, my delegation would like to reiterate that the Republic of Korea is a staunch supporter of international efforts to combat terrorism. We sincerely hope that ongoing activities within the UN and its bodies, as well as by regional groups, individual states, and other non-state actors, will achieve a fruitful outcome.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. /End/