



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

By

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To the Sixth Committee of the Seventy-Fourth Session  
United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 109:  
“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”

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[Please *Check Against Delivery*]

**Thank you Chair,**

The delegation of Sierra Leone congratulates you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee, and also your Bureau. We have no doubt that your extensive diplomatic experience will lead our work to a successful and profitable conclusion this session. I assure you of this delegation's fullest cooperation.

The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively associates this statement with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Zambia on behalf of the African Group, the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

My delegation notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General A/74/151 with the *"information on measures taken at the national and international levels, on the basis of submissions from Governments and international organizations [...and the] list of relevant international legal instruments"*. We commend Member States and international organizations that responded to the request by the Secretary-General in this regard.

Sierra Leone continues to stress her unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomsoever committed.

**Chair,**

In our efforts to address the critical aspects in the fight against terrorism, among others, the financing of terrorism, Sierra Leone amended her 2005 anti-money laundering law in 2012 to include prohibition and punishment for the financing of terrorism, titled the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Act.

In this statement, however, Sierra Leone wishes to highlight the collective steps the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are taking in view of the multilateral processes to address the scourge of terrorism. The cowardly acts of terrorism represent a clear and present danger for the West African sub-region, its stability and socioeconomic development with the spate of recent terrorist attacks across the sub-region posing grave danger to our resilience.

At the 55<sup>th</sup> ECOWAS Ordinary Session held in Abuja on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Authority of Heads of State and Government resolved to convene an extraordinary summit on terrorism in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The intention was to review the several regional and country-specific initiatives on counter-terrorism, and how this Extraordinary Summit could help redefine the priorities. There was the due observation of the significant challenges which remain, following the adoption of the ECOWAS strategy in 2013 in Yamoussoukro, Cote D'Ivoire to address terrorism, despite the concrete actions taken by the Member States. The challenges include: Slow pace of adoption and implementation of measures by Member States; Poor ownership by Member States; Limited role played by civil society; Low level of information sharing amongst Member States; and Inadequate resources.

The challenges, which are cross cutting, demand heightened engagements and multilateral cooperation at the sub-regional, regional and international levels. With the biggest sub-regional challenge in the Sahel, Sierra Leone at the sub-regional level had called for enhanced cooperation with priority placed on intelligence sharing and coordination as an integral component of the sub-regional strategy to fight terrorism.

In the Extraordinary Session held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on the 14 September 2019, the Authority of the Heads of State and Government on Terrorism adopted a Priority Action Plan for 2020-2024, focusing on eight (8) areas: The first is “Pooling and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts” in the sub-region; under which the Authority renewed “its commitment to the pooling and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts”, and reiterated “its call for the reinforcement of the activities of the Joint G5 Force, Operation Barkhane, the Lake Chad Basin Multinational Joint Task Force, MINUSMA, as well as the Accra Initiative and the strengthening of operational coordination between the Forces and Initiative”.

The Authority called for a robust mandate to be given to MINUSMA to fight terrorism, and approved the principle of “*involving the ECOWAS Standby Force in counter-terrorism efforts. [...including encouraging] the ECOWAS Commission to continue the process of making the ECOWAS logistics depot in Lungi, Sierra Leone operational*”. The other seven (7) areas include: effective and direct information and intelligence sharing; training and equipping public officers involved in counter-terrorism; strengthening management and security at the borders; strengthening the control of arms and dual-use goods; countering the financing of terrorism; promoting communication, inter-community dialogue, preventing violent extremism; and resource mobilisation to fund counter-terrorism within ECOWAS.

**Chair,**

It is Sierra Leone’s view that military and security approaches alone will not effectively address terrorism, and that a civil-society-civilian stakeholder component is also critical. States have to impress on civil society stakeholders that national development and resilience depend on security. We must therefore map out clear and coherent ways in which civil society actors can help Governments communicate with the people, build trust, defuse the triggers of conflict, support equitable and accountable governance that creates opportunity, and supports peacebuilding. This approach is in line with the call of the General Assembly and will assist in the adoption of “*further measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism*”.

The Sierra Leone delegation continues to re-echo our support for the urgent finalizing of the process to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. We also continue to affirm the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

In conclusion, as we continue to closely examine legal, policy, and institutional frameworks at all levels to address the threat of terrorism, we call for the tackling of extremist violence, terrorism, transnational crime in an organised and comprehensive manner.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**