

**Statement by Turkey
on Agenda Item 109
“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”
at the
Sixth Committee

07 October 2019
New York**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to join other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Terrorism is a threat that concerns each and every country today.

In every platform, Turkey advocates that we need to be **resilient** in tackling this threat.

As always, increased international cooperation is key if we are to protect our people and societies from the **ever-evolving nature of terrorism**.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon. Over decades, particularly starting from late 1970s, countless people lost their lives and numerous families were shattered in Turkey on account of different manifestations of terrorism.

As you are well aware, Turkey is a **frontline country with regard to the conflict in Syria**. We have developed vast experience and expertise to tackle terrorists travelling to and from the conflict zones.

Thanks to the measures that we have taken, we have foiled a number of terrorist plots and cleared our borders from DAESH and the PKK threat.

Undoubtedly, countering terrorism is a **never-ending process and endeavor**.

I am proud to say that Turkey is harvesting the results of relentless efforts to render our cities and societies safer and stronger. Thanks to the hard work, sacrifice and resolve of the Turkish security forces, **no terrorist attack has occurred in any metropolitan area** in Turkey since the horrible night club attack on 1 January 2017.

Mr. Chairman,

Clearly, **no country is immune** and protected from the threat and horrors of terrorism.

More importantly, **there is no room for complacency** when it comes to addressing this transnational scourge.

With this in mind, we do support further development of UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, our ultimate collective guide in tackling terrorism in multiple ways. We will continue to provide the necessary support to the implementation of the Strategy's "four pillars".

We are committed to contribute to advance the UN's efforts for robust international cooperation on countering terrorism.

In this respect, we look forward to the second review conference to be held in June 2020. We understand the theme of victims of terrorism will be high on the agenda during this week.

We are keen to contribute to the special congress to be held during this week dedicated to this important theme.

Mr. Chairman,

From Turkey's perspective, the United Nations is the eminent international body in designing a universal counter-terrorism framework.

It has also the capacity to interlink various aspects in the implementation of this universal framework through different UN organs and agencies.

I would like to underline Turkey's full commitment to continue to support and take active part in the counter-terrorism efforts of the UN entities.

We also attach particular importance to the global implementation of Security Council resolutions obliging the member states to take action against terrorist groups, and those that finance and support them.

Turkey is also one of the major supporters of the UNODC's crime prevention and criminal justice programme as well as its counter narcotics efforts.

Turkey has been undertaking capacity-building activities at the bilateral level with more than 70 countries.

Most of these activities involve counter-terrorism training programs for the representatives of law enforcement agencies.

We are also one of the major donor countries of the UNODC.

We will continue to support similar capacity building programs in the period to come.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to make sure that we are **consistent and inclusive** in our collective fight and messaging against terrorism and terrorist propaganda.

The plight of children at the hands of terrorist organizations should continue to be the focus of international community.

Currently, the families whose children are abducted by the PKK started a silent protest in Turkey. They simply want their boys and girls back. Taking this opportunity, I would like to draw your attention to the plight of these families.

Mr. Chairman,

We look forward to a fruitful discussion in the Sixth Committee under this agenda item, and to working closely with Member States, on measures to eliminate international terrorism. We also hope that progress will be achieved on the negotiations aimed at concluding the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Thank you.