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## 75th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT: Sixth committee.114

UNDER AGENDA ITEM: "MEASURES TO ELIMINATE  
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

Delivered by

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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Check against delivery

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE**

**75<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 114**

**“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”**

**NEW YORK, 07<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election to steer the affairs of this noble Committee. I assure you of the African group's unwavering cooperation and support throughout the work of the Sixth Committee.

The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The African Group like others would like to express gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on measures to eliminate international terrorism contained in document A/75/176.

**Mr. Chairman,**

There is no justification for terrorism, which is why African Group strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomever it is committed, including State terrorism. Moreover, we reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

Hence, the African Group perceive any act of terrorism as a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law. The African Group recognizes states non-derogable obligation as it relates to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter. The African Group welcomes the outcome of the 6<sup>th</sup> Review of the Strategy which tackled, amongst others, issues relating to the return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and the exacerbation of extremist narratives.

The African Group values the sincere engagement of the Secretary-General for a successful review of the UN counter terrorism architecture and reiterates its support to the Office for Counter Terrorism under the Direction of Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov and looks forward to continuing cooperation with the Office. We also commend the UNOCT on its holding of the Virtual Counter Terrorism Week in July 2020 under the theme of “Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment”.

It is also important to note that the current COVID 19 pandemic entails a greater sense of urgency for these assistance and capacity building efforts. The devastating socio-economic impact of the pandemic that are already being felt worldwide in the widespread loss of jobs and industries, and a commensurate economic downturn, will no doubt exacerbate the conditions that are known to breed terrorism. This is a worrying set of circumstances in Africa, which has seen an increase in terror attacks and the proliferation of terror groups, including the mushrooming of ISIL affiliate groups throughout the continent.

The African Group appreciates the work done so far by the ad hoc committee in drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We reiterate the importance of the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism and the continued effort to that end. We further call upon all states to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues.

The African Group stands ready to work actively with other delegations to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention on international

terrorism. In view of this, the African Group supports the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we believe that the proposal should be given serious consideration.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group reiterates its willingness to work actively with other delegations to continuously refine the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and is looking forward to the full implementation of the Strategy, and urges the United Nations and the donor countries to provide the necessary assistance to Member States to capacitate them in implementing their obligations in this regard.

It would be recalled that, Africa has long recognized the need to embark on concrete measures to counter the phenomenon of terrorism, in the days of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and we continue to remain committed to date under the succeeding prevailing body of African Union, which without hiccup adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in 1999 and entered into force in 2002. At the year, this effort was complimented by a followed-up Plan of Action Inter-governmental High-Level Meeting in September.

The continued effort and commitment of African Continent through the then OAU, now AU, has redoubled by establishing the African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers and the presence of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to guide, promote, sensitize, prevent, protect and Strengthen the capacity building of relevant stakeholders through the provision of operational and technical advice and support, as well as the delivery of trainings and other forms of capacity building, to address issues relating to terrorism and implement their obligations under the global and continental regime.

All these efforts demonstrate the unflinching international and regional commitment by African Continent to address terrorism, with a view to end the scourge of terrorism in Africa and by extension, the World at large.

**Mr. Chairman,**

While expressing concern about the increase in incidences of kidnapping and hostage-taking, aimed at raising funds or gaining political concessions, the African Group considers that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern for the international community and equally concerned that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups constitutes one of the main sources of financing terrorism. In this regard, the African Group urges Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist groups.

Moreover, the African Group calls upon Member States to prevent refugee status from being abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and also calls upon Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure, before granting asylum, that the asylum\_seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts. Furthermore, the African Group calls upon Member States to collaborate in the pursuit of developing and implementing effective counter-narrative strategies, and the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives.

Apart from implementing concrete measures, it is our view that more attention in the fight against terrorism needs to be paid to the further strengthening of inter-state cooperation. States should expand the range of assistance available in the apprehension of terrorists and in the investigation and prevention of terrorist acts. It is in this context that the creation and operationalization in Djibouti of the center of excellence (IGAD) in the prevention and fight against violent extremism participating in African initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of African countries to adopt coordinated approaches to counter terrorism. The African Group welcomes the initiatives to encourage cooperation between the UN and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism.

We appreciate the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCTI) elaborated by the African Center for study and Research on Terrorism and the United States' Africa Center for Strategic Studies. We also welcome the Madrid Declaration and

Plan of Action on combating terrorism in West and Central Africa. The African group welcomes the establishment in Rabat, Morocco, of the UNOCT Program Office for Counter Terrorism and Training in Africa, which will make an important contribution in counter terrorism through capacity building support to Member States of the region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In closing, measures aimed at ensuring the more effective implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and related UN resolutions, as well as capacity-building in developing countries are vital for a well-functioning universal international law approach to combating terrorism. Africa always endeavors to live up to its international obligations in the fight against terror and in the implementation of related UN resolutions. However, many of African States are constrained by inadequate resources and weak capacity and therefore appeal to the international community for the necessary assistance required to enable them to fulfill their obligations and commitments.

It is of critical importance that the UN and its Member States work hand in hand with Africa to prevent the threat of terrorism from derailing the hard-won gains that Africa has made in unifying, developing and working towards a more prosperous, peaceful future.

**I thank you for your attention.**