



**United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee**  
**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**  
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Mr. Chairman,

As it is the first time that Brazil takes the floor, let me congratulate you for your election and express our full support to you and to the Bureau in this session. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for its most recent Report on measures taken to eliminate international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations. The repudiation of terrorism is enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution as a guiding principle of our foreign policy. Our commitment to fighting terrorism has also been translated into domestic legislation, which is now completely within the standards of the Financial Action Task Force.

Consistent with our commitment to fight this scourge, and while cognizant of the primary responsibility of states in countering terrorism, we have engaged in all relevant debates in the United Nations, including in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. Our task at the Sixth Committee is of utmost importance: we have here the opportunity to complete the counter-terrorism framework that member states have been building for more than fifty years now.

The current patchwork of sectoral conventions prohibiting well-specified acts related to terrorism lacks the unity and coherence that a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism would provide. There is a need to overcome the stalemate in the negotiating processes leading to adoption of the CCIT and to the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the UN. Filling this unjustifiable legal gap would contribute to reinvigorate the rule of law dimension of counter-terrorism, a precondition for its effectiveness. It would also create adequate conditions for ensuring that measures adopted at regional and national levels respect the due process of law and comply with human rights.

We are conscious that taking the final step of this legal task will require a strong political push. This is why Brazil argues that convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the UN - another collective task yet to be fulfilled from the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document - could provide the momentum needed to build the necessary bridges. Last year, the Secretary-General organized the first-ever UN High Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism, generating political attention aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation. The

next conference of this kind should be seized as an opportunity to conclude the CCIT - and the preparatory process could take place in the realm a reconvened Ad Hoc Committee.

The stalemate in CCIT negotiations is linked to another pressing legal issue: the definition of terrorism. The absence of a universally agreed-upon definition is detrimental to our shared goal of eliminating international terrorism. The emergence of new expressions, such as radicalism and violent extremism, may add additional confusion, both in understanding the causes and in seeking the best ways to prevent and counter these phenomena.

Mr. Chairman,

In the past years, there has been a shift in the decision-making power from the UNGA to the UNSC on many counter- terrorism issues, which represents more than an institutional change. It has implications to the law on the use of force and might illustrate a change in the preferred responses to terrorism. The Sixth Committee is uniquely suited to make a concrete contribution to the matter, by placing international law at the center of the discussions on counterterrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Counter-terrorism efforts will only be sustainable and effective if consistent with the UN Charter and other norms of international law, including human rights, humanitarian and refugee laws. If counter-terrorism takes place at the expense of international legal parameters, it will have defeated its purpose – and maybe contributed to generating additional extremism conducive to terrorism.

Thank you.