



**Permanent Mission
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
to the United Nations – New York**

STATEMENT

BY

Ambassador Adela Raz

**Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United
Nations**

Sixth Committee of the 75th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda Item 114: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

7 October 2020

NEW YORK

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election and assure you of Afghanistan's full support and cooperation as you lead the work of the Sixth Committee in this challenging time.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

We are deliberating on the agenda item entitled: "Measures to eliminate International Terrorism", at a time when the menace of terrorism continues to pose one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and to broaden its scope with new operational tactics. With the COVID-19 pandemic, terrorist groups have found an opportunity to take advantage of existing vulnerabilities and the shift in priorities of States, in order to further escalate their horrific attacks around the world.

In such a precarious global landscape, Afghanistan remains one of the countries that suffers the most from the scourge of terrorism. Throughout this year, heinous terrorist attacks have resulted in high casualties, mainly among our innocent civilians who are also facing the negative impacts of COVID-19.

As a frontline State in the global fight against terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan remains committed to countering terrorism without any distinction, and in all its forms and manifestations.

Over the past year, our brave National Defense and Security Forces made great strides in the fight against international terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda and ISIL-Khorasan Province. Acting in close coordination with our international allies, they inflicted heavy losses on those groups, eliminating and capturing some of their key members and dismantling their networks and bases inside the country.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to our national efforts in combatting terrorism, we are of the firm belief that terrorism, as an international phenomenon, cannot be defeated by a single country. In this regard, fostering regional and international cooperation is key to the success of counter-terrorism efforts. For our part, we remain engaged with our regional partners, both bilaterally and through various multilateral mechanisms and processes, including the

Afghan-initiated Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, under which we are working on a regional counter-terrorism strategy to consolidate our efforts.

At the global level, we have always attached great importance to the United Nations' role in providing a unified global response to terrorism. As such, we look forward to the 7th review of the United Nations' Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which is expected to take place next year. We also wish to commend the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism for organizing the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week under the theme "Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment" held from 6 to 10 July this year.

Looking forward, we would like to stress the need for accelerating our joint efforts towards the successful conclusion of the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which will provide a strong basis for international counter-terrorism cooperation.

We also reiterate our call for the more effective enforcement of the UN Security Council sanctions regimes to target the capacities, resources and cross-border movements of terrorist groups. In that regard, all States must act decisively on their international obligation to refrain from any kind of material and moral support to terrorists, including safe havens.

Furthermore, an effective counter-terrorism approach requires more concerted efforts in addressing the root causes of terrorism, including terrorist narratives, its various sources of finance, and the interlinkages between terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crimes.

Mr. Chairman,

Addressing the plight of victims of terrorism constitutes an important part of counter-terrorism efforts.

As a Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Afghanistan continues to advocate for the promotion and protection of the human rights of victims and survivors of terrorism, and on the importance of ensuring that their voices are heard and their financial, moral, and psychological needs are taken into consideration. We are pleased to have virtually held the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 75th UN General Assembly last month and look forward to continue our work together towards our important shared objective.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Afghanistan's longstanding commitment to combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. While our efforts for achieving a dignified and lasting peace in the country are ongoing, we are of the firm conviction that the outcome of these efforts must ensure an Afghanistan that is free from the threat of terror, and that will contribute to the security and stability of our region and the international community as a whole.

Thank you.