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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا لدى
الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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STATEMENT BY AMANUEL GIORGIO
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE 75TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 114: “MEASURES TO ELIMINATE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”
08 OCTOBER 2020, NEW YORK

Chair,

Let me extend my warm congratulations to you and the other members of the bureau for your elections to guide the work of the sixth committee during the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly. I wish you the best of luck, and I want to assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation in the conduct of our deliberation.

Eritrea associates itself with the statements made by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group and by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation wishes to thank the UNSG for his report (A/75/176) which contains information submitted by member states and relevant international organizations on measures taken to eliminate international terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

In the past two decades, terrorism has evolved into complex phenomenon that poses a serious threat to human security and international peace. The scourge of terrorism and violent extremism has grown in number and scope. The modes that

terrorists use have become more sophisticated, deadly, and atrocious. Terrorist groups have morphed into administrative entities governing large swaths of land and managing economic enterprises that run in billions of dollars. Notwithstanding its global nature, the effects of terrorism are strongly felt in regions where states are suffering from fragility and conflict.

No country is immune to this heinous crime and its destabilizing effect. In full compliance with the UN charter and international law, the need to build a common front and strategy at all levels to effectively combat the spread and elimination of international terrorism cannot be overstressed. Law enforcement and military response to terrorism has demonstrated its limits. There is a need to make meaningful progress in achieving sustainable development as poverty associated despair continues to provide fertile grounds for terrorist recruitments.

Eritrea as a multiethnic and multi-religious society, attaches great importance to policies and actions that promote inclusiveness and social justice. Educational system is secular, religious tolerance is nurtured, youth participation on diverse issues are encouraged, and the national service program is tailored to offer an important platform for interaction and exchange of experiences among high school students that come from diverse ethnic, geographic and cultural backgrounds. The list of the measures, though not exhaustive, all make valuable contributions to fostering national cohesion.

Moreover, in a region where ideology of extremism and organized crimes have been pervasive for decades, Eritrean law enforcement agencies work with vigilance and diligence supported by a dedicated government body tasked with combating terrorism and organized crimes and by a registry system, that ensures accountable and effective control of firearms and explosives. This is further bolstered by domestic laws that include issuance of proclamation on anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism as well as regulation of exit and entry visa requirement to and from the country. Following the promulgation of anti-money laundering in 2014, the establishment of an anti-money laundering intelligence unit and the joining to the Eastern and Southern Anti-Money laundering Group as an

observer member are all important additions to the institutional and legal arrangements that Eritrea is building.

At the regional level, on top of the regional mechanisms to which Eritrea is a state party, bilateral and trilateral agreements are concluded and stronger relations are forged with neighboring states to further boost regional cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual interest, including in combating terrorism. Strong commitment, cooperation and coordination will be indispensable to the overall efforts of the states in the region to deny terrorists and organized networks breeding grounds.

Chair,

Counter-terrorism efforts must go beyond devoting resources to the symptoms of international terrorism by rising to the challenge of addressing head-on to the underlying causes of the scourge. Emerging threats, such as misuse of technology in spreading messages of hate, intolerance and extremism must also be tackled if we are to effectively combat international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Thus, the full implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy with its four pillars, and the role of the newly established United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) become important towards a unified and coherent response at the global level.

While the serious threat of international terrorism has been an agenda item of the UN General Assembly for decades, the UNSC has also been adopting several resolutions, including resolution 2178 (2014) on combating foreign terrorist fighters which Eritrea co-sponsored. The resolutions call on member states within their means and circumstances to contribute to the global fight against terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization. In this connection, last July, Eritrea provided its preliminary response to the UN Counter Terrorism Committee on a set of implementation survey and stocktaking, pursuant to UNSC resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and other relevant resolutions. The report was the result of a series of consultations among several relevant government institutions under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, with the establishment of the Adhoc Committee, we hope to see progress on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by finding consensus on the outstanding issue of legal definition of terrorism and the scope of the convention.

I thank you