



Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of **Lebanon**

to the United Nations

at the

Sixth Committee

Item 114: **“Measures to eliminate international terrorism”**

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Mr. Chair,

We congratulate you on your election to steer this Committee and extend to you our delegation's support in the conduct of our work under these particular circumstances for all of us. We seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Secretariat and in particular the Codification Division for their valued contribution.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on measures taken to eliminate international terrorism on national and international levels (A/74/176).

Lebanon associates itself with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia, respectively on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

In the midst of these trying times, where many are suffering from economic and social hardship, the risk of violent radicalization and extremism can be higher and terrorist groups could exploit the significant distress of many individuals. The dire economic situation for thousands and millions of young people could lead them to despair, and desperate people do desperate things. We need to take out the roots of despair like poverty, inequality and injustice.

This holds true for Lebanon, where the pandemic stoked the dire economic, financial and social crisis before the tragic port of Beirut explosion struck the ultimate blow.

Amid this grim reality, unemployment rate, poverty and extreme poverty have spiked. Furthermore and as a result of confinement measures, young people were spending more time on unsupervised Internet, which allowed for more exposure to violent extremist ideologies.

This shows how much prevention remains of the essence: fostering economic development, empowering youth and women; respect for human rights and the promotion of the rule of law, good governance continue to be of the essence as well.

We count on the support of our longstanding partners to help us address these challenges.

Mr. Chair,

The risk of terrorist attacks is still very present and remains a constant threat.

Lebanon was reminded of this threat a few days ago, with the killing of four Lebanese soldiers in an operation that disrupted a terrorist cell linked to ISIS. Our determination to prevent and counter terrorism does not only manifest itself on the security front, because we know that only through a holistic and comprehensive approach will we be efficient.

This is why Lebanon has been developing a National Strategy to counter-terrorism. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been coordinating the discussions between the different ministries and relevant agencies. We have been assisted in these efforts by the European Union.

The four building blocks of the Strategy will be:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Security
- Response

Mr. Chair,

Our country has always firmly condemned terrorist acts and has always firmly reiterated that it cannot be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group. We reaffirm that terrorism should in no way be equated with the right of people to resist foreign occupation, rooted in international law.

Lebanon attaches importance to the respect of its international obligations when combating terrorism. In this regard, we look forward to the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will provide an opportunity to provide an update of the global response, based on the four equally important pillars.

We also welcome the intention of Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Voronkov, to convene a High-Level Regional Conference on human rights and counter-terrorism as soon as conditions permit. As consistently stressed, the compliance with human rights in the fight against terrorism is not optional.

Mr. Chair,

Lebanon, a member of the Group of Friends of the Victims of Terrorism, looks forward to the convening of the first ever United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

As said in this statement, terrorist attacks have never spared Lebanon and made a substantive number of victims throughout its history.

Just a few weeks ago, on 18 August 2005, the Trial Chamber of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon pronounced its judgment in the case of the terrorist attack that claimed the life of former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and other innocent civilians, 15 years ago.

It found the accused guilty of all the counts, including, conspiracy aimed at committing a terrorist act and committing a terrorist act by means of an explosive device.

It is our hope that this judgment, contributes to bringing - long overdue - relief to the victims and families of the victims and ending impunity.

Thank you.