

Statement by Saudi Arabia on behalf of the OIC Group
Before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
On “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”
New York, 5 October 2021

Madam Chair,

Al-Salam Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the OIC Group on the agenda item “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee, and I would like to assure you of the OIC Group’s full support throughout the work of the Committee.

Madam Chair,

The OIC Group condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motivations, the identity of the perpetrator and the location it was committed. OIC reaffirms that terrorism constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the right to life. Terrorist acts endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security.

The OIC Group reiterates its respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter.

The Group reaffirms that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, culture, ethnicity or society. The Group strongly condemns any politicized attempt to link Islam with terrorism. Such attempts serve only the interest and aspirations of terrorists and promote polarization, hatred, discrimination, xenophobia and hostility against Muslims and Muslim communities worldwide.

Accordingly, we reiterate the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for the sake of peace and harmony in the world, and welcome all regional and international initiatives and efforts to that end.

Madam Chair,

The OIC Group also reaffirms its commitment to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The group believes that it is essential to follow a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism. This should be done by addressing the root causes of terrorism, **including the lack of sustained economic growth, lack of development, lack of socio-economic opportunities**, unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, prolonged international disputes, and political marginalization and alienation. Moreover, it

is necessary to combat all terrorist groups and organizations wherever they exist without any distinction.

Once again, the Group reiterates the need to distinguish between terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate right of people to resist foreign occupation and would like to stress that this distinction is duly observed in International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and the General Assembly resolution 46/51 which also endorses this position.

Furthermore, the Group believes that it is essential that Member States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of terrorist acts, denying terrorist groups access to any finance, safe havens, assistance or weapons. It is also imperative to enhance the cooperation and coordination to refute the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups and organization.

The OIC reaffirms that the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes an ongoing effort and is a living document, which should be updated and re-examined regularly. The Group also reaffirms that the Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced manner across its four pillars. We stress the importance of enhancing capacity-building of Member States to assist them in the implementation of various obligations of UN resolutions, through increasing the resources for UN entities and departments entrusted with this task, as well as enhancing bilateral technical assistance and transfer of technology. In this regard, the OIC recognizes the central role and the contribution of the United Nations Center for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT) in this context.

In this regard, the OIC welcomes the adoption of the GA resolution on the Seventh review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, on 30 June 2021, which attuned to Member-States' counter-terrorism priorities including some of the OIC's. The updated strategy recognized with deep concern the rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence including cases motivated by Islamophobia, in addition to the increased risk of terrorist attacks on cultural property and religious sites. Also, noting the exploitation by the terrorist groups of grievances caused by Covid-19; calls upon Member States to take appropriate measures to address the new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the base of xenophobia and racism. The Group also welcomes that the 7th review resolution clearly recognized the threat terrorism poses to the enjoyment of Human Rights including the right to life, the central role of national institutions including law enforcement institutions in countering terrorism, in addition to expressing the General Assembly's concern regarding the phenomenon of the transfer of Foreign Terrorist Fighters to and amongst conflict zones.

Madam Chair,

The OIC Group reaffirms its commitment to the process of negotiating a draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) and underscores the need for progress in this process. We reiterate our previous proposal on the scope of the draft Convention. We reaffirm our determination to make every effort to reach a **consensus** agreement on the draft convention, by resolving the outstanding issues including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, particularly on the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the rights of self-determination by people under foreign occupation, and colonial or alien domination, as well as on the scope of the acts covered by the draft Convention.

In this regard, OIC still sees merit in convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the purpose of finalizing the outstanding issues in the CCIT and further enhancing the international community's response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I thank you Madam Chair.
