



ARMENIA

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Agenda Item 111 “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”

Statement by the Delegation of Armenia

October 6 2021

Madam Chair,

I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on assuming the leadership of the Sixth Committee and wish you all success in steering its work. You can count on Armenia’s full support in exercise of your mandate.

We thank the United Nations Secretary-General for his report outlining the measures to eliminate international terrorism, to which Armenia contributed by providing relevant information on the national efforts to address the scourge of terrorism, including in the context of challenges stemming from relocation of foreign terrorist fighters to our region.

As terrorists seek to exploit divisions, conflicts and other vulnerabilities, the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular its socioeconomic impact, the global lockdown, rise of hate, xenophobia and polarization have created conditions conducive for radicalization and recruitment of terrorists. This is particularly relevant for societies, whose radicalization stems from the state-led policies promoting hatred on ethnic and religious grounds and dehumanization of whole nations. Such incitement and indoctrination provides the most fertile soil for the seeds of extremism and terrorism increasing the threat of racially or ethnically motivated terrorism and vulnerability of religious sites, shrines and cultural monuments.

In the conditions of the global lockdown the misuse of the ICTs and social media by terrorists to propagate their radical ideology and increase the recruitment potential is an alarming trend. The international community must redouble its efforts to enhance prevention of malicious use of the cyber domain for terrorist purposes by timely identification and addressing of hate speech targeting ethnic and religious groups.

The foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries have been extensively instrumentalized as proxies in conflict and the region of South Caucasus was not an exclusion in this regard. Amidst the global pandemic, in September-November last year, thousands of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries were employed in the large-scale military aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh. The poor financial and social conditions in the territories of north Syria contributed to the recruitment of FTFs and their subsequent relocation.

The recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters from the Middle East and their transfer to Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone has been extensively documented and acknowledged by the law enforcement agencies of several countries, reported extensively by independent observers and media outlets and also reflected in the statement of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries of the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, dated 11 November 2020.

Azerbaijan, together with its external supporters, bears direct responsibility for sponsoring the flow of international terrorists into the region, in violation of numerous UN resolutions on countering, preventing and suppressing terrorism and the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. This brings a new reality to the region of South Caucasus turning Azerbaijan into a "safe harbour" for terrorists. Their presence and activities in the region may lead to further radicalization and proliferation of terrorist network to the wider neighbourhood.

Madam Chair,

Armenia reiterates its commitment to supporting the global efforts for elimination of international terrorism, as reflected through a large number of practical measures to improve border and customs security, to combat money-laundering and terrorism financing, in support of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and other counter-terrorism commitments.

Stronger cooperation and coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, its Executive Directorate, Office of Counter-Terrorism and other relevant UN bodies is key for ensuring efficient and integrated response of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture to the new threats and assisting the member states in implementation of their commitments on preventing and countering terrorism.

The consensual adoption of the Resolution on the seventh Review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy on 30 June this year created an important momentum for further advancing our common efforts to achieve a world without terrorism. Among other emerging challenges the resolution reflects on the growing threat of the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters in conflict zones.

Armenia acknowledges the important role of Security Council sanctions committees, in ensuring accountability for terrorist entities and individuals, assessment of the evolving global terrorism threat in different regions and monitoring compliance of the member states with the sanction regimes.

The cooperation with the regional organizations, such as the Organization of Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Council of Europe, including through sharing best practices and capacity building is key to address the threat of terrorism and radicalism.

Madam Chair,

The 20th anniversary of the resolution 1373 is an important opportunity to identify challenges and gaps and recommit to efficient cooperation in countering terrorism. Since no country is immune to terrorism, the international community should stand united and work hand in hand to counter terrorism in all its manifestations.

Thank you.