

STATEMENT

76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 111

“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”

**PRESENTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMB. ADONIA AYEBARE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK

Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Uganda. At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election to steer the work of the Sixth Committee. You can count on Uganda's strong cooperation and support throughout the work of the Sixth Committee.

My Delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives speaking on behalf of the African Group, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Uganda would like to express its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” contained in document A/76/201.

Madam Chairperson,

Uganda condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, for whatever purpose by whomsoever. Terrorism can never be justified under any context. We reiterate our position that in order to have a meaningful and successful fight against terrorism, we must be prepared to take the hard decisions, including assigning a comprehensive definition of terrorism. This is a minimum requirement seeking to isolate terrorism; and thus, differentiate it from other legitimate struggles.

The circumstances and conditions under which terrorism thrives must be addressed before there can be any hope to ultimately eradicate the threat. In doing so, its root causes must be identified. This would enable the international community from concentrating on the symptoms. Accordingly, we call on the international community to address the root causes of terrorism. Poverty needs to be addressed as one of the conditions under which terrorism thrives.

My delegation fully appreciates and supports the work done so far by the ad hoc committee in drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We reiterate the importance of the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for combating international

terrorism (CCIT) and the continued effort to that end. We welcome the resumption of the informal consultations on the outstanding issues relating to the draft CCIT, and we further call upon all Member States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues.

My delegation stands ready to work actively with other delegations to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. In view of this, the African Group supports the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we believe that the proposal should be given serious consideration.

My delegation supports the establishment of the United Nations Program Office for Counter Terrorism and Training in Africa, which will make an important contribution in counter terrorism through capacity building support to Member States of the region. It will serve as a training hub to build counter-terrorism capacities and cooperation in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel. This training hub will develop and deliver specialized counter-terrorism and law enforcement training programmes to requesting Member States in Africa. My delegation also welcomes the establishment of the regional programme office of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in Nairobi, Kenya, to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism in East Africa.

Madam Chairperson,

Uganda has been engaged in the fight against terrorism for a long time, whether it's the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); the so-called Allied Democratic Forces (ADF); and the Al-Shabaab in Somalia, Ugandan men and women of the Uganda People's Defence Forces have been leading at the frontline. The LRA was defeated and routed out of Ugandan territory, but unfortunately, they continue to cause wanton suffering in the Central African Republic, and some parts of North Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. We call on member states to continue extending their unfettered support to all efforts aimed at eliminating these terrorist groups.

We must collectively engage in efforts aimed at denying terrorists any havens, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing state vulnerability, and enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Under the auspices of the African Union, Uganda is the biggest contributor to the AMISOM forces, and in that capacity, Uganda has been at the forefront of fighting the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. In many situations, terrorists take advantage of weak government structures in order to force recruits into their ranks. We therefore call for continued support from member states to the Federal Government of Somalia to build capacity of their security institutions to effectively address the threat posed by the Al Shabab terrorist group.

Madam Chairperson,

For the last two years, the world has been grappling with the disastrous impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Never, in modern times, has the whole world suffered the impact of a pandemic so severe and so widespread as the ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic. In this

most challenging time in the history of the United Nations, it is crucial for us to address existing, new and emerging issues of collective concern and interest to us all. These include the economic impact of the pandemic on Member States and developing countries more generally; the disruption of health systems, global supply chains and international travel which threaten to increase the conditions that breed terrorism.

Lastly Madam Chairperson,

We reiterate our call to address the issue of toxic waste dumping off the coast of Somalia. There is a danger that the toxic waste dumping sites could also provide an opportunity to terrorists to recycle some of the materials for their own terrorist goals.

I thank you for your attention