

Seventy-seventh session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 112

Measures to eliminate international terrorism
Oral report of the Chair of the Working Group
Chair: Mr. Rohan Perera (Sri Lanka)

Mr. Chair,

[As one of the Friends of the Chair, I have the honour to read the oral report of the Chair of the Working Group, Ambassador Rohan Perera, who has asked me as a matter of convenience to deliver the oral report on his behalf as he is not in New York at present.]

“I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/121 of 9 December 2021, the Sixth Committee, at its first meeting, on 3 October 2022, decided to establish a working group to finalize the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to discuss the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.
2. At the same meeting, the Sixth Committee elected Mr. Rohan Perera (Sri Lanka) as Chair of the Working Group. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 51/210 and consistent with past practice, the Working Group was open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
3. Further, in accordance with established practice, the Working Group decided that members of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee, to the extent of their availability, would continue to act as Friends of the Chair during the meetings of the Working Group.
4. The Working Group had before it for discussion, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its sixteenth session (A/68/37), which contains as

Annex I the preamble and articles 1, 2, and 4 to 27 of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism (hereinafter the “draft comprehensive convention”), prepared by the Bureau, incorporating the various provisions contained in A/C.6/65/L.10; and written proposals relating to the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention, contained in the report as Annex II.

5. The Working Group also had before it, the letter from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 1 September 2005 (A/60/329), and the letter dated 30 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/60/2). The Chair also drew to the attention of the Working Group last year’s oral report by the Chair of the Working Group, contained in document A/C.6/76/SR.27.

II. Proceedings of the Working Group

6. The Working Group held two meetings, on 14 and 21 October. The Working Group adopted its programme of work and held its discussions in the framework of informal consultations. The informal consultations on the outstanding issues relating to the draft convention were led by Mr. Michael Kanu (Sierra Leone), while those concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations were chaired by the Chair of the Working Group. These informal consultations were held on 14 and 20 October.

III. Recommendation

7. At its meeting on 21 October 2022, the Working Group adopted a proposed recommendation, based on operative paragraphs 25 and 26 of resolution 76/121, that the Sixth Committee, at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The recommendation also recognizes the valuable dialogue and efforts of Member States towards resolving any outstanding issues, and encourage all Member States to redouble their efforts during the

intersessional period. The recommendation will form part of the draft resolution on the item.

IV. Informal summary

8. The present informal summary is for reference purposes only and is not an official record of the proceedings.

9. Consistent with previous practice, and in accordance with resolution 76/121, the informal consultations were devoted to discussing the outstanding issues on the draft comprehensive convention and the proposal made by Egypt concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The informal consultations were held against the backdrop of the plenary debate on the item “measures to eliminate international terrorism” at the 1st 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th plenary meetings of the Sixth Committee, held on 3, 4, and 6 October 2022, during which delegations in most part reiterated positions on the draft comprehensive convention and on the convening of the high-level conference, while expressing support for its conclusion.

10. During informal consultations on the draft comprehensive convention, held on 14 October, the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Rohan Perera, gave an overview of the work undertaken over the years in the context of the Working Group and the Ad Hoc Committee established pursuant to resolution 51/210, as well as provided an update on the status of the negotiations regarding the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention. It was recalled that the work has proceeded on the general understanding that further consideration would be given to all written amendments and proposals that are on the table, together with all other written and oral proposals, in future discussions, including on outstanding issues. Particular attention was also drawn to the 2013 Bureau proposal (A/68/37), as well as an informal non-paper of the former coordinator, Mr. Angel Horna, on a possible way to overcome differences on the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention and comments were invited on the latter.

11. During the informal consultations held on 21 October, the Coordinator of the outstanding issues, Mr. Michael Kanu, invited delegates to the focus firstly on the informal non-paper by the former Coordinator, Mr. Angel Horna. He described the changes made by the non-paper to the 2013 Bureau text. Given that the changes essentially revolved around paragraph 2, he invited comments on that paragraph. The Coordinator also invited delegates to consider (a) the value of examining the

description/nomenclature of the proposed convention, with the particular value of reducing any zero-sum consideration that delegations might have; (b) how the current framework of negotiations could be enhanced; (c) and on how to approach the future work with respect to resolving the outstanding issues. Some delegations expressed their continued interest in the efforts of the Working Group towards reaching a solution on the outstanding issues. At the same time, the point was made on the utility of having some understanding first on the underlying legal principles, including for some those underpinning the definition of terrorism before the Working Group could consider any textual proposals. Attention was also drawn to the need of preserving the existing global counter-terrorism framework was also emphasized.

12. At the informal consultations held meeting on 21 October, the Working Group also considered the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The continued relevance of this proposal was reiterated by the sponsor delegation of Egypt, together with its proponents. While some delegations reiterated their support for convening a high-level conference and emphasized that discussions on the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention could be taken in parallel to the high-level conference, others indicated that, without first achieving consensus on the draft comprehensive convention, holding a high-level conference would be premature.

13. As Chair of the Working Group, I am most grateful to delegations for their continued interest, cooperation and assistance on a matter that is complex in many dimensions. I encourage delegations to continue working together with the Coordinator of the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention, Mr. Michael Kanu, intersessionally.

14. I recommend that the Committee take note of the present oral report.”

This concludes my presentation of the oral report of the Chair of the Working Group. Thank you.