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**STATEMENT DELIVERED**

BY

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MINISTER-COUNSELLOR AND LEGAL ADVISER

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**AGENDA ITEM OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTH COMMITTEE ENTITLED  
“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”**

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2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023  
UNHQ  
New York

**Mr. Chairman,**

The delegation of Ghana congratulates you and the other esteemed members of the Bureau on your election to guide the successful deliberation of the Sixth Committee during this 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly. We extend to you our support and cooperation.

Ghana aligns itself with the statements of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the distinguished representatives of Uganda and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/78/221 which content we have taken due note of.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The growing menace of terrorism is a grave threat to humanity. Aside its apparent destructive force against societies, it constitutes a serious assault on our commonly held values of human dignity and the inherent right to life for every person. It is in our view a reckless choice for advancing the interests of any individual or group and an attack on all of society.

Ghana is therefore firmly committed to the global fight against the scourge of international terrorism and welcomes the supportive work of the Sixth Committee in this regard.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Despite the global counter-terrorism architecture, advancements in technology and access to financing continue to provide a lifeline for more complex, lethal and wide-reaching terrorist activities. It is in this regard that we call for enhanced international cooperation and coordination involving regional actors, the private sector, civil society, the youth and women, especially, in responding to radicalization and terrorism. Counter-terrorism measures must also take into account the changing dynamics of the threat.

The elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, remains a national priority for Ghana. National efforts at combating terrorism have been backed by the strong political will of succeeding governments and a progressive Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Money-Laundering regulatory framework.

Given the fluid nature of terrorist activities, Ghana continues to work in close coordination with neighbouring States on counter-

measures such as the Accra Initiative to combat terrorist groups operating in the region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

While noting the utility of kinetic action in disrupting terrorist activities, Ghana believes that prevention must remain an important component of present and future counter-terrorism measures. Prevention, in our opinion, involves the creation of conditions for stability and the building of resilient societies through increased investments in economic development, social inclusion, the culture of peace and tolerance, the rule of law and the strengthening of government institutions within States. Creating meaningful jobs and enhancing opportunities for the bulging youth populations across the African continent in particular is an important measure for reducing their vulnerability to radical ideologies and the appetite for terrorism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This Committee could continue to play an important role by leading efforts to explore ways to close legal gaps that weaken efforts at preventing and countering terrorism and strengthening

instruments that can enhance global mobilization and action against terrorist groups.

Ghana stresses the codification of international law on terrorism to consolidate the normative framework which supports the global fight against terrorism. The prevailing legal lacuna on a universal definition renders the phenomenon of terrorism to different interpretations and agenda. This legal uncertainty also hampers a unified approach in dealing with the perpetrators of such heinous acts. Ghana reaffirms its support for the finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations. In order to make progress, the divisions which have plagued the work of the Sixth Committee in this respect must be resolved in a manner that keeps in view the ultimate goal of ridding our societies of a menacing threat.

We also welcome the progress made during the 8<sup>th</sup> Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the consensus adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 77/289 condemning terrorism in

all its forms and manifestations and importantly, reaffirming support for the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We wish to express our appreciation for the support of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODT) and the United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) for the strong and dynamic cooperation with our government in the area of capacity-building and technical support for the implementation of initiatives to confront terrorist activities on the Sahel and West African frontiers.

We are aligned with the African Group on the assessment that many African States still lack the resources and technical capacity for fulfilling their obligations and commitments in our common battle against terrorism. African States are committed to strengthening partnerships and reaching concrete outcomes in support of counter-terrorism operations in Africa during the UNOCT Joint Africa Counter-terrorism Summit that would be held in Nigeria next year

and counts on the support of its friends in addressing the funding gaps.

In closing, Ghana calls for the renewed commitment of Member States in the fight against international terrorism and within the context of this august Committee, to work towards the finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as mandated by the General Assembly.

**I thank you.**