



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

Item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism
Sixth Committee
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
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UN Headquarters New York

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Philippines expresses its full support for you and the members of your Bureau. We are pleased to see a fellow ASEAN Member State leading this session. We align with the statements of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary General for his Report (A/78/221) which gives us a sense of the steps that states have taken steps forward in line with Paragraph 10 of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

The Philippines recognizes that the threat from international and local terrorist groups remains a significant challenge to global security. We are eager to contribute to the international efforts and overall initiatives to countering terrorism and violent extremism, in line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy's four pillars, and consistent with human rights and the rule of law. Our unrelenting resolve to address its root causes has led to a significant improvement in the Philippine outlook.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines has adopted measures not only to counter and prevent terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism, but also to ensure that their root causes are sufficiently addressed, their victims, as well as the families of the victims, are able to find justice through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Strengthening our legal framework, particularly through the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 is one of the many steps we have taken in the whole-of-nation approach to prevent and suppress international terrorism. We also exert efforts to counter terrorism financing, enhance law enforcement and border control, secure and protect cyberspace.

In 2017, Marawi City, in southern Philippines, was under siege by terrorists, including by foreign terrorist fighters. Marawi has since risen from the rubble and ashes. It underscored that the underlying conditions that drive people to join violent extremist groups must be addressed at the grassroots.

To address victims' welfare, our law mandates the Anti-Terrorism Council to prevent victim dehumanization and radicalization. We also have the Marawi Compensation Act which compensates survivors of the 2017 Marawi Siege. The Task Force Bangon Marawi leads Marawi's physical rehabilitation and reintegration, and other agencies provide socioeconomic and psychosocial support. The Philippines collaborates with the UNOCT on addressing victims' rights and needs through comprehensive assistance plans and model legislation.

In addition, our Task Force-Balik Loob, an interagency body created to help reintegrate former rebels and former violent extremists back to society help the subject individuals and their families as well as empower their communities.

Mr. Chair,

We join hands with the international community in ensuring that terrorists will find no safe haven anywhere.

With the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and partners, we continue to implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme to detect the travel of terrorists and serious criminals in both the air and maritime environments. We note its synergies with UNOCT's aviation security initiative which we have rolled out in the Philippines and look forward to the programme's next stage.

Mr. Chair,

We reaffirm the primacy of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and we remain committed to its four-pronged approach: particularly that measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law are the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. With the adoption by consensus of the 8th iteration of the GCTS, the community of nations once again reaffirmed the four pillars of this living document.

At the UNGA, our Foreign Minister said, "The preservation of a rules-based global order is our collective responsibility. The UN is underwritten by a rules-based order governed by international law and informed by the principles of equity and of justice. Its present and future rest on the predictability and stability of international law, which safeguards the rights of all states. If multilateralism is to endure, all states must adhere to the rule of law."

In this spirit, through constructive engagement, respect for sovereignty and for people's agency, we commit to collectively work towards a long-overdue comprehensive convention, anchored on the rule of law. Thank you, Mr. Chair. **END**