



Statement on behalf of the Republic of South Africa

by

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Agenda item 109

“Measure to eliminate international terrorism”

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Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your well-deserved election. Allow me to assure you of my delegation's cooperation and support throughout the work of the Committee. South Africa associates itself with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

We also express gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on the important agenda item on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

Terrorism continues to be a problem and a serious threat to international peace and security, human rights, and to the humanitarian efforts of the international community aimed at helping the most vulnerable. The upsurge in acts of terrorism globally shows how terrorism can mutate in ways that threaten the enjoyment of peace and security globally. Just yesterday, we woke up to news reports regarding the terrorist attack in Ankara, Turkiye. This followed a similar attack 2 days earlier in Pakistan where more than 50 people lost lives. These are deplorable acts that took lives of innocent people. Not even a single life should be lost on the hands of the terrorists. South Africa expresses its condolences to the government and people of Pakistan and Turkiye regarding the pain caused by this criminal act.

South Africa deplores all acts of terrorism, and we emphasise that none can be justified. We therefore strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods, and practices associated with it.

Chairperson,

My delegation remains firm in our belief that no country and region can address this challenging and complex threat on its own. Strengthened cooperation among countries, regions and international organizations remains crucial in the realisation of the fight against terrorism. The UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains the most credible and relevant international counter-terrorism mechanism, which continues to enjoy the political support of all Member States. Its strength lies in the fact that it is the product of the collective efforts of the Member States of the United Nations to counter this scourge in a holistic manner. Its regular reviews are therefore important in ensuring that it is a living document which addresses issues as they happen.

Whilst much is being done to counter terrorism at the international, regional, sub-regional, bilateral and national levels, including in terms of law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and extradition, it has become critically important and urgent to conclude a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism. We therefore re emphasise South Afrtica's full support to the efforts put in place regarding the finalisation of the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Chairperson,

At the national level, in South Africa, there has been a number of developments relating to terrorism since the adoption of the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, of 2004, including new international instruments, and UNSC resolutions, which requires an updating of the national legislation.

Following the compliance visit to South Africa by the United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate, which oversees the implementation of binding UNSC Resolutions and the recommendations made thereon regarding the strengthening of the local legislation, progress has been made in amending national legislation to give effect to these crucial developments relating to terrorism on the international plane.

The Financial Action Task Force, of which South Africa is a member, after a compliance visit on the financing of terrorism, made recommendations on strengthening measures in the domestic legislation, aimed at combating the financing of terrorism and those are also taken into consideration in this process. Therefore, South Africa continuously adapts to a dynamic area and will report on these developments soon.

I thank you for your attention.