

Statement by Mr. Hyunsoo Kim (Counsellor)

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (Agenda 109)

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New York

Mr. Chair,

First of all, my delegation would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your elections. I am confident that under your stewardship, the 6th committee meetings will produce constructive outcomes and positive progress. I also would like to thank the Secretariat for its unflagging efforts in preparing this meeting as well as the report on this agenda.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea reaffirms that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomever they are committed. My delegation strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those acts committed on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or a belief.

Mr. Chair,

Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to welcome the adoption of the resolution on the 8th review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). In spite of some differences, all Member States showed a spirit of solidarity and agreed to the new resolution.

However, despite the commendable progress we made, we cannot deny the stark reality

that global terrorism still poses serious threats to the global peace and security. The threats from Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates have shown no sign of abating in conflict zones and neighboring countries, while new and emerging technologies offer opportunities to terrorists to recruit and mobilize resources.

Mr. Chair,

To effectively respond to the evolving nature of terrorist threats, we must take an approach that is more relevant and up-to-date. My delegation would like to make five points in this respect.

First, we need to take a holistic approach to counter terrorism and violent extremism, one that addresses root causes such as poverty and inequality which continue to be the breeding grounds for terrorists.

Second, it is important for the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to strengthen its coordinating role and collaborate with other UN agencies and other regional and sub-regional organizations considering the complex and multifaceted nature of today's challenges and limitations in resources.

Third, we need to promote an integrated and balanced implementation of the GCTS and its four pillars to support capacity building for Member States, while ensuring respect for human rights, fundamental freedom, and the rule of law.

The Republic of Korea embraces a comprehensive, whole-of society, human rights and rule-of-law compliant approach. The establishment of a Counter-Terrorism Human Rights Protection Officer in Korea's National Counter Terrorism Committee shows our commitment in this regard.

Fourth, innovations in technologies provide opportunities for terrorist groups to exploit the Internet and social media for their means. Therefore, we need to discuss ways to

prevent the misuse of technologies by the terrorists.

In line with this, our President, during his recent General Assembly speech, restated his support for the creation of an international body under the UN to address and formulate ethical norms for AI and digital technologies, aimed at preventing their misuse and narrowing the digital divide.

Lastly, my delegation welcomes the adoption of resolution 2664, which approved humanitarian exemptions to asset freeze measures imposed by UN sanction regimes. At the same time, my delegation also believes that sanctions hold merit as effective tools to constrain terrorists.

Mr. Chair

As a strong supporter of global counter-terrorism efforts, the Korean government is committed to the full implementation of the GCTS and relevant UN resolutions and continues to be fully engaged and act in this regard.

Thank you. /End/