



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

Delivered by

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Item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Sixth Committee

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UN Headquarters, New York

Madam Vice Chair,
Excellencies, Colleagues,

The Philippines expresses its appreciation to you, Mr. Chair, and to the members of the Bureau, as you guide the work of the Sixth Committee at this 80th session. We also thank the Secretary-General for his report on measures to eliminate international terrorism. The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and associates itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Terrorism remains a real and present danger to our collective security. The Philippines reaffirms that no single country can address this challenge alone. Our exchanges, including in this Committee, provide a crucial platform to strengthen multilateral cooperation and information-sharing in combating terrorism.

National measures

At home, the Philippines continues to pursue a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to prevent and counter terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism. Guided by our National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (2023–2028), and the newly adopted National Action Plan for Unity, Peace, and Development (2025–2028), we address the root causes of conflict through inclusive governance, peacebuilding, development-oriented programs, and the promotion of tolerance.

This year, we achieved significant progress. The Philippines was delisted from the Financial Action Task Force Grey List, following reforms and the establishment of a Fusion Center to enhance inter-agency coordination against terrorist financing. We also strengthened border security through the entry into force of the Philippines–UN Memorandum of Agreement on the GoTravel system, and conducted simulation exercises to enhance preparedness against CBRN threats.

Through the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, underpinned by legal safeguards and independent oversight, we continue to enhance national capabilities in full respect of the rule of law and human rights. We remain engaged with UN human rights mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability.

Partnerships, technology, and victims of terrorism

Terrorism increasingly exploits the digital domain, underscoring the importance of capacity-building on the responsible use of new technologies. In close partnership with UNOCT and UNCCT, the Philippines has hosted technical workshops on cybersecurity, as well as on the Model Legislative Provisions for the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. These efforts reflect our conviction that counter-terrorism must be victim-centered, rights-based, and gender-responsive, anchored on trauma-informed approaches.

At the national level, the Philippines continues to institutionalize victim assistance, including through the operationalization of the Marawi Compensation Board and the drafting of a comprehensive assistance plan for victims of terrorism. We recognize victims and survivors as credible voices for peace advocacy and community education.

International cooperation

The Philippines remains committed to regional and cross-regional collaboration. In the recent High-Level week, we co-hosted with Morocco and CTED the side event “Insights from Southeast Asia and West Africa: Cross-Regional Exchange on Countering Terrorism.” The event drew lessons from national and regional experiences, including the peace process in Bangsamoro, and reaffirmed that integrated approaches – combining security measures with political dialogue, development, rehabilitation, and reintegration are essential.

We stand in solidarity with Africa in its efforts to address terrorism through Africa-led and Africa-owned initiatives. The Philippines has supported the UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa and remains committed to cross-regional exchanges to strengthen resilience and capacity-building.

Legal framework and the UN counter-terrorism architecture

Mr. Chair, the Philippines reiterates its call for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, anchored on the rule of law, with respect for sovereignty and people’s agency. We welcome ongoing efforts, including the establishment of a working group, towards finalizing this long-overdue process.

We also continue to contribute to discussions on the evolution of the UN counter-terrorism architecture, including through the UN80 Initiative. In this regard, we have emphasized the importance of coherence, transparency, inclusivity, and stronger coordination across the UN system, with UNOCT at the center as strategic policy coordinator.

Closing

The Philippines will continue to actively engage with partners, the United Nations, and this Committee, in collective efforts to eliminate terrorism. Through constructive dialogue, multilateral cooperation, and a rights-based approach, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensure that terrorism finds no safe haven anywhere.

Thank you, Madam Vice Chair. **(END)**