



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BY

Ambassador Ghulam M. Isaczai

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations

Special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

4 November 2021

NEW YORK

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you for convening this special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 and the establishment of the Committee. I would also like to thank the distinguished speakers for their insightful remarks.

The 20th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee provides us with an opportunity for reflection on past achievements and the many challenges ahead. I would like to highlight that during the past 20 years, a lot of important steps have been taken, including through adoption of resolutions, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the building of a more robust and responsive counter-terrorism architecture, and the mobilization of resources to defeat terrorism. In addition, the efforts led by the UN Secretary-General, the Office of UN Counterterrorism, the CTED and the Committee are commendable and praiseworthy.

Mr. President,

Despite our best efforts, these last 20 years have also shown us how complex and ever-changing terrorism can be. We have seen the emergence of new terrorist groups that consistently employ new tactics to inhumanely attack the most vulnerable populations. This new reality and the challenges posed by modern terrorism reiterate the need for the international community to adapt and to take decisive action through more cohesive, collaborative, and joint efforts, at the regional and multilateral levels, that truly embody the spirit of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001).

Today, it remains even more evident that terrorism will never be defeated unless we genuinely implement our commitments nationally and globally. It is equally important to efficiently target its root causes. We must be able to counter extremist narratives while also identifying and neutralizing elements that allow for their continued operations, including sources of financial support and safe havens for foreign terrorist fighters. Doing this will allow us to shift focus from fighting terrorism to actually defeating it in its entirety.

Mr. President,

In my country, terrorism continues to claim countless innocent lives. The journey that Afghanistan started together with the international community at a very difficult time in Afghanistan's history when the forces of terror that had threatened our country for years launched an attack on September 11, 2001, has not come to an end yet. Innocent Afghan lives are taken in different forms by terrorist acts, including explosions in mosques, revenge and extra-judicial killings particularly of former security and defense forces. These heinous acts of terror happen in stark violations of international human rights and international humanitarian laws.

While we continue to release statements and express our condemnation for these heinous actions, our international strategy to fight this menace has not even been able to define what terrorism is. It is time to take the next step and build on the progress of the last 20 years and design an outcome-oriented strategy that can help the UN and Member States better work towards ensuring the right of all people to live without fear.

Additionally, we must also protect the rights and acknowledge the important voice of victims of terrorism as stakeholders in designing effective counter-terrorism strategies. We cannot speak about defeating terrorism without ensuring that the needs of those affected by it are addressed and that victims can return to society and live the rest of their lives without the fear of a second attack. We welcome efforts by the UN to further the cause of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and reiterate the importance that victims occupy a central role in our counter-terrorism agenda.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that now is the time for boldness, leadership, and vision that ensures the framework we have built is translated into firm international and regional actions that address the root causes of terrorism and defeats this threat once and for all. It is what our people demand and what we, as representatives of the United Nations, should deliver.

I thank you,