

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by:

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before the Sixth Committee

On Agenda item 108:

“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”

New York, 13 October 2015

In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by aligning myself with the statements delivered by the distinguished speakers on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. In addition to what was expressed in those statements I would like to make the following points in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran has long been a victim of terrorism, and is still suffering from terrorist attacks in different forms, including state terrorism. In the last day of August and the first day of September this year, Tehran hosted an international congress focusing on the multidimensional issues of victims of terrorism. In addition to a number of papers and presentations by the researchers and experts, the participants also paid special tribute to 17,000 individuals, including women and children who have fallen victims to heinous acts of terror committed within the last four decades in Iran. It is indeed a large number that *inter alia* well justifies why countering terrorism has always been a priority for my country.

Sadly, state terrorism continues to endanger peace, security and basic human rights of people. State terrorism has targeted scientific and technological development in my country by assassinating the elite individuals, including nuclear scientists. It has also been responsible for carrying out cyber attacks against the industrial infrastructure of my country.

State terrorism abhorrently targets civilian populations and deliberately attacks women and children sheltered in recognized protected places under international humanitarian law to break their determination in order to advance its repressive policies. Needles to mention that we still face a big challenge in countering terrorism: double standards and selective approaches in dealing with such terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign the occupation for self-determination and national liberation. This approach is aimed at prolonging occupation of their territories and oppression of the peoples under occupation. This is extremely important when it comes to any definition of terrorism including in any international legal instrument.

The threat of terrorism continues to affect our societies and we still seem to be far from uprooting this menace. We are grateful to the Member States for supporting the resolution A/68/127 titled “A World against Violence and Violent Extremism” known as “WAVE” in 2014. If we look at the current situation and escalation of violent extremism and terrorism in our region, we see how pertinent this resolution and the core idea it rightly proposes was. It strives to promote a comprehensive and collective plan to counter extremism and to advance respectful mutual dialogue with a view to make a secure and peaceful world for all, free from violence and extremism.

Mr. Chairman,

We are of the view that countering terrorism should be done in full conformity with the United Nations Charter, international law, international human rights and humanitarian law. Use of force in combating terrorism by outside forces without the explicit consent of the state concerned would constitute a flagrant violation of the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which in its turn would endanger rule of law at the international level.

Another unfortunate departure of this conformity is the labeling of other states for political purposes. We strongly reject the unilateral preparation of lists accusing other States of so-called “sponsoring terrorism” and any consequences thereof, which is inconsistent with international law and is merely exploited as a political tool to advance other agendas and political goals of enlisting governments. Such unilateral actions would only undermine the urgently required joint efforts by all States to counter terrorism.

Moreover, there should also be genuine and factual criteria as well as integrity on the part of States when dealing with listing and de-listing of terrorist groups and organizations. A notorious terrorist organization responsible for countless terrorist attacks targeting Iranian civilians for nearly forty years was de-listed from the terrorist blacklist of some States in recent years. Though the listing itself did not stop them from committing terrorism, the de-listing of terrorists for political considerations has not only undermined international cooperation in countering terrorism, it was also a

tremendous blow to thousands of terror victims and their families in Iran, which continue to seek to bring perpetrators to justice. We reiterate that through international cooperation, impunity must be ended for such terrorists either by prosecuting or extraditing them.

Mr. Chairman,

I am using this opportunity to exercise my delegation's right of reply to false and baseless accusations made by the representative of the Israeli regime yesterday. It is unfortunate that in the Legal Committee we should respond to such non-sense allegations by representative of a regime with a long record of terrorism from its very inception. This regime was built on the basis of intimidation, terror and occupation. There is no doubt that continued occupation of Palestine and the atrocities against the its people over so many decades have fueled extremism and other crises in our region and beyond.

No one is surprised that a representative of an extremist warmonger regime tries to misuse this body for deflecting blame. The Israeli regime is well known as the single most significant practitioner of "state terrorism" responsible for many terrorist acts. It is too early for people of the world to forget Gaza atrocities during the summer of 2014, which included war crimes and crimes against humanity documented by this Organization as well. The current news headlines regarding the violence against people in occupied territories are also telling. This regime cannot and should not be allowed to accuse others as a tactic to divert attentions for its inhumane and terrorist policies.

Its network of state terrorism has conducted deadly operations all over the world. Just to name one example: innocent Iranian scientists who used to work for the development of their beloved country were brutally killed in front of the terrified eyes of their families by agents of this regime in very recent years. They still continue to threaten to kill more innocent people. Countering terrorism and addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism cannot be considered separate from addressing terrorist activities of this regime.

I thank you