

# Islamic Republic of

# I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

## Statement

By

The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Before the Sixth Committee

On

Agenda item 108: "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"

New York, 11 October 2007

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

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran aligns itself with the statements made yesterday on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Much has been done to prevent and fight terrorism and curb the threats it poses to our peace, security, stability and development. Yet terrorism continues to be a source of concern for all States and, therefore, remains high on the agenda, both at national and international levels. It is axiomatic that no country, developed or developing, could be claimed to be immune from the threats arising from this scourge and that no individual State could afford to overcome it without the help of others. The threat is global and the solution should be global, too. Only through an integrated, cooperative and sustained response we would be able to overcome the menace in this increasingly connected world.

Fighting terrorism requires an internationally agreed-upon legal framework supported by concerted effort and political will of all nations. To meet such a goal, campaign against terrorism should be organized under the auspices of the United Nations, and conducted in conformity with the Charter and in accordance with international law. A consensually agreed legal definition of terrorism is essential to fulfill that end, since it would prevent certain powers from pursuing the long practice of determining

international public enemy on a subjective and arbitrary case-by-case basis and as their national interest prescribes. Such definition has to be objective and conclusive enough to include all forms of terrorism including State terrorism. However, in determining such definition, a clear distinction ought to be made between the heinous acts of terror, committed for whatever purpose, on the one hand, and the internationally recognized and legally legitimate struggle of peoples deprived of their fundamental right of self determination, on the other. Since the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy failed to come up with such a definition, we think that this important and sensitive issue could be addressed by convening an international high-level conference under the aegis of the United Nations.

Truly, prevention is better than cure. What we need is to recognize this sheer fact, and then act on its basis. The fact is that terrorism like any other disorder has real causes which should be addressed. We should not shy away from addressing the root causes of terrorism. Nor should it be misunderstood or mistaken as a justification for inhuman acts of terrorism. Terrorism like any other criminality can and must be prevented. In so doing, the first step is to identify and eradicate the underlying causes of terrorism and the feeding grounds that breed resentment, despair, hatred, intolerance and violence. We welcome the recognition in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that "conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism" should be addressed. In the same vein, it is now self-evident that resorting to large-scale armed force, in retaliation against the perpetrators of terrorism, though justifiable at a mundane level of discourse, may, at best, cause the symptoms to get disappeared--but only temporarily. In real world, however, the extensive use of military force against terrorism has led to slaughter of innocent peoples, euphemistically shrugged off as *collateral damage*, and eventual vicious circle of violence and terror has gain momentum as a result.

Military conflicts, old and new, are a main feeding ground for terrorism. Foreign occupation and subjugation remains the top single root cause of terrorism. Foreign occupation contravenes the basic tenets of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and human rights. Furthermore, State terrorism put global efforts in combating terrorism in jeopardy and makes a mockery of our collective anti-terrorism campaign. Massive bombardment of populated areas, massacring innocent people including children under the pretext of combating terrorism is nothing but whole-sale systematic terrorism by State.

We should not play into the hands of terrorists by sacrificing our high principles, particularly rule of law, through resort to arbitrary persecution and unlawful and/or inhumane counter-measures. Rule of law, both at national and international levels, and respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as international humanitarian law must be our guiding principle in fighting terrorism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns terrorism unequivocally in all its forms and manifestations. As a vivid victim of terrorism, we strongly believe that killing innocent civilians, irrespective of its motivations, is a criminal and abhorrent act. We also believe that State terrorism is the gravest and the most dangerous form of terrorism. We

are concerned at the increase in terrorist acts in our surrounding regions, mainly brought about or triggered by the ongoing conflicts imposed by non-regional powers. The continuation of foreign occupation has provided a fertile ground for misguided extremists and opportunist elements to slaughter innocent civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is very alarming that the unfettered wave of terrorism in those countries may spill over to the adjacent areas.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would spare no effort in fighting terrorism. We are ready to cooperate with all countries and with the United Nations in this regard. A workshop on prevention and combating terrorism was organized by the UNODC jointly with the Iranian Judiciary on 17-18 January 2007. The workshop was aimed at discussing the implementation of international counter-terrorism treaties in Iranian domestic law. The Islamic Republic of Iran acceded to the 1979 *International Convention against the Taking of Hostages* on 20 November 2006. Accession to the remaining international anti-terrorism documents is underway. A number of Initiatives has been taken at bilateral and regional level to promote cooperation against terrorism and transnational organized crime, especially drug-trafficking, given the possible link between organized criminality and financing of terrorism.

Terrorism is a despicable crime that should be combated in its all forms and manifestations. No one can and should make a distinction between good and bad terrorism. The alarming point is that some States still have a functionalist approach toward terrorism and delude themselves by presuming that terrorism might be acceptable as long as it could be exploited to secure their ulterior political interests. Unfortunately, certain States are increasingly resorting to the same cold-war style proxy war pattern to interfere in domestic affairs of other countries by inventing new terrorist groups, training their elements and financing their activities. This is not only contrary to international law but also in negation of all human and civilized values that we all stand for.

Efforts to link terrorism with specific religion, nationality or culture must be rejected and stopped. Such narrow-minded ill-intended approach to terrorism, will only lead to distrust, hatred and division among nations and cultures. In this context, both the concept and the discourse of "dialogue among civilizations" can play a key role. We welcome all initiatives that seek to promote dialogue and understanding among different civilizations, cultures and religions. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and true teachings of Islam which abhor aggression, prohibit killing of innocent people and value peace, compassion and tolerance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The adoption by consensus of the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* on 8 September 2006, indicated the resolve of the international community to address terrorism in a comprehensive manner. The Strategy is built on categorical condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

The Strategy's call for addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism is a realistic approach toward this multi-faceted phenomenon. Indeed, addressing the underlying causes of terrorism is an essential part of any successful fight against terrorism. The Strategy acknowledges that prolonged unresolved conflicts are one of such root causes. Foreign occupation is, for sure, the most damaging manifestation of prolonged unresolved conflicts.

The task before us now is to implement the Strategy in a consistent and objective manner as well as strive to rectify its shortcomings in an appropriate fashion and within a time frame. The absence of definition of terrorism is one of the important defects of the Strategy which needs to be resolved. A consensus objective legal definition of terrorism would highly contribute to the successful implementation of the Strategy.

We see it imperative for the GA to review the plan of action on a regular basis in order to adapt it to the new developments. The international community must seize on the momentum gained through the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and continue its work by further developing the necessary comprehensive legal framework. In this context we should take note of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by GA resolution 51/210 and the outcome of its 11<sup>th</sup> session convened on 5, 6 and 17 February 2007. My delegation supports the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to finalize its work as quickly as possible. The Working Group of the Sixth Committee could also facilitate and advance this process. My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Chair and the Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee to facilitate the conclusion of the comprehensive convention.

We also support the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. This conference could facilitate the accomplishment of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee by addressing the main outstanding issues such as the question of scope of application of the draft comprehensive convention as well as its relationship to other fields of international law, particularly international humanitarian law.

**Thank you.**