

*Permanent Mission
of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations
New York*



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STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

ON BEHALF OF THE ARAB GROUP

DELIVERED BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR ABDULLAH AHMAD AL MURAD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

BEFORE THE

**FIRST BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE UN GLOBAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY**

**THURSDAY, 04 SEPTEMBER 2008
NEW YORK**

In the Name of Allah, The Merciful, The Compassionate

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Arab Group, we would like to thank Your Excellency on convening this meeting, relating to the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in September 2006. We also thank the Secretary-General on the report he submitted in this regard, and which was prepared pursuant to General Assembly Resolution (60/288). The Group is also thankful to the efforts exerted by the Facilitator, H.E. Ambassador Gerth Rosenthal, of Guatemala.

Mr. President,

The Arab Group attaches a great deal of importance to the efforts exerted to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestation, since the Arab countries were and still are among the countries that most suffer from terrorism in the world, considering that it took the lives of hundreds of thousands of their innocent citizens. The League of Arab States was a pioneer in putting forward an Arab Strategy to Combat Terrorism, which the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers adopted in 1997, it also put forward a Comprehensive Arab Agreement to Combat Terrorism in 1998, which makes this legal framework, an important regional mechanism, complementary to that put forward by the General Assembly, in accordance with Section 8 of the United Nations Charter. The Arab States have implemented numerous measures contained in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism, and some are still in the process of being implemented.

Mr. President,

The Arab Group also attaches a great deal of importance to all the measures contained in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, particularly those aiming at addressing the root causes of terrorism and the circumstances that lead to its propagation. In this regard, the Arab Group reaffirms its constant position that terrorism cannot be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and emphasizes the need to adhere to this principle by everyone, according to the provisions of the Strategy. Therefore, the Arab Group calls for strengthening the dialogue, tolerance and understanding between civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions as well as making disrespect of religions, their defamation or violating their symbols a crime, since this is an incitement for hate, which could lead to terrorism.

In this context, the Arab Group commends the Global Conference on Dialogue, which was held in Madrid, Spain on 16 July 2008, under the auspices of His Majesty King Abdllah Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia and His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain.

Mr. President,

The Arab Group wishes to make reference to the lack of any definition to the concept of terrorism and state terrorism in the Strategy, due to the absence of an internationally agreed upon definition of terrorism, which may lead to hindering the completion of international efforts to combat terrorism

In this regard, the Group affirms the need to finish discussions aiming at drafting the United Nations Comprehensive Agreement on Terrorism, which will include a specific definition of international terrorism and state terrorism, and distinguishes between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist occupation and aggression, while taking into consideration that killing innocent civilians is not sanctioned neither by the divine laws nor by international and regional conventions.

Mr. President,

The Arab Group declares that it attaches utmost importance to make the review process a success, despite the apparent absence of methodology in preparation for this important meeting. In this regard the Arab Group presents the following observations as a contribution to making the review process a success:

- 1. The Arab Group affirms the importance of the follow- up of the implementation of the Strategy's contents in a comprehensive and non-selective manner, as well as the central role that the General Assembly play; being the main body of the United Nations System with the broadest representation; in considering the subject of combating terrorism from all aspects.**
- 2. The Arab Group affirms total adherence to the international resolutions issued by the United Nations relevant to combating terrorism by all means, and to confront it by all means available for the maintenance of international peace and security.**
- 3. Departing from this, the Arab Group welcomes what was contained in the Draft of the General Assembly on the review of the Strategy, on organizing the relations of member states with the Counter-Terrorism International Task Forces in the area of combating terrorism, within**

their approved mandates, which would allow greater participation by member states in directing the policies and implementing the Strategy, being the primary responsible for that, and providing them with the ability to monitor the activities of the Task Forces. In this regard, we view that the establishment of the task forces within the UN Secretariat and empowering them with the necessary resources, provides a favorable basis for an organized constructive and integrated contribution with the efforts of the member states, in realizing the aims of the Strategy.

4. The Arab Group affirms its support to the proposal presented by His Majesty, the Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines, King Abdallah Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia to establish an international center to combat terrorism under the United Nations umbrella.

Thank you, Mr. President.