Sixth Committee

Agenda Item: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Speech of Cuba

October 5

CUBA: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. Allow me to begin by congratulating you and the rest of the members of the Bureau on your election. I would also like to express the support of the Cuban delegation for that said by the distinguished delegation of Iran on behalf of NAM and Chile on behalf of the RIO group. Cuba reiterates its iron will to fight against terrorism. We firmly reject and condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all forms and manifestations by whomever, against whomsoever and wherever committed whatever their motivations including those in which states are directly or indirectly involved.

Cuba has a general legislation against terrorist acts. It has also adopted important non-legislative measures aimed at combating this phenomenon. Our country has an impeccable history of fighting terrorism and has never allowed, nor will it allow, its national territory to be used to carry out mastermind or financed terrorist acts against any other state with no exceptions.

With its succession on 17 June 2009, to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, Cuba became a state party to the Thirteen International Relevant Instruments on Fighting Terrorism.

This year the review of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy took place. On the multilateral level the implementation of its four pillars constitutes a significant starting point to channeling all of our efforts to globally eliminate terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations. Special importance is attached to the implementation of pillars 1 and 4, referring to the need to tackling the conditions conducive to terrorism and on the way to face this scourge. It is here that little progress has been made.

Madame Chair, the international community must not accept that under the flag of an alleged fight against terrorism. Certain states carry out acts of aggression and interfere in the internal affairs of other states. They commit or allow the commission of flagrant violations of human rights and humanitarian international law or simply under double-standards carry out unilateral acts contrary to the charter of the UN and rules and principles of international law.

The certification of countries and the drawing up of lists of good states and bad states according to the political convenience of others is an illegitimate process and discredits the genuine purpose of the fight against terrorism. Cuba categorically rejects the decision taken last August by the U.S. Department of State to include Cuba, once again, as has been the case since 1982 on a list of alleged states cosponsoring international terrorism.

This spurious and groundless decision shows the irrational character of U.S. policy towards Cuba. This policy has been in place over 50 years and has maintained the cruelest and longest economic and commercial and financial blockade against a country despite the rejection by the international community of such an obsolete policy. Meanwhile, the most notorious terrorists of the Western Hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles, continues to walk freely in the streets of Miami. There is recent news that is alarming and shows an increasing activism of this criminal.

In spite of the fact that this information is public knowledge, despite all the existing proof, including that provided by Cuba, and that in the hands of the CIA and the FBI -- although this is a fugitive from justice and a publicly confessed criminal whose horrible crimes include a mid-air blowing up of a civilian airplane claiming the lives of 73 innocent people, despite all of this, the U.S. government continued to show its total incompetence to comply with international obligations to prosecute or extradite Luis Posada Carriles. The true reason is that he is a monster created by them themselves.

In this context of injustice and double-standards, five young Cubans have been suffering unjust prison sentences for 12 years for only having defended their people from these terrorist acts. Cuba calls for the immediate freeing of these five.

Madame, Cuba's commitment to the fight against terrorism is unequivocal. We endorse the adoption of a general convention on international terrorism enabling us all to close the existing legal loopholes. Important legal instruments address the issue of terrorism from different approaches. What the international community urgently needs now is a general international standard defining terrorism in a clear and comprehensive manner. A new comprehensive treaty on terrorism, a new general convention on terrorism must include the activities of a state's armed forces which are not regulated by humanitarian international law and they must also insure that there is a clean distinction between terrorism and illegitimate fight of the peoples for independence and in the defense of their right to self-determination. The Cuban delegation reiterates its suggestion to make additions to Article 2. Cuba supports the proposals supported on Article 18 by member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We reiterate our commitment to continue to work on the proposals presented by the coordinators in the text of 2007.

We urge those states who continue to hinder the progress of these works to show the necessary flexibility to move forward. If a consensus text is not reached, we believe that the best way to boost our efforts is by holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. This would allow us to provide an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestation.

Allow me to conclude, Madame, reaffirming that Cuba will continue to work tirelessly to strengthen the main role of the United Nations in the adoption of measures and the creation of a legal international framework in the fight against international terrorism. Thank you very much, Madame Chair.