Sixth Committee

Agenda Item: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Speech of Yemen

October 6

YEMEN: Thank you, Madame Chair. At the outset, allow me to express you our deepest congratulations for your election and the trust that you have that the Committee has placed in you. We wish you success in your duties. We trust in your ability to run the affairs of the Committee and at the same time, we express our complete readiness to cooperate with you to ensure the success of this ground.

Madame Chair, my country's delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the OIC, and the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the NAM movement. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of its perpetrators, motivations or justifications.

My country affirms that this phenomenon is one of the most serious challenges posed to international peace and security and the international community must unite in its ranks against terrorism and cooperate over its elimination.

My delegation welcomes the Secretary General's reports entitled "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" in Document A/65/175 which incorporated important information on measures taken at the national and international level to prevent and suppress international terrorism.

My country's delegation would like to express its thanks to the Chairman and members of the Ad Hoc Committee formed by GA Resolution 51/210 of December 17, 1996. We thank them for the efforts exerted to arrive at a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Madame Chair, the Republic of Yemen renews its commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and confirms that it is exerting efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination and the exchange of information with all countries and the regions and throughout the world in order to dry up the sources of terrorism and to limit the movements of terrorist elements. Because it believes that this phenomenon is foreign to our societies and is rejected and condemned by our Islamic religion which is based on moderation and tolerance. In this regard my country affirms that this phenomenon is not linked to a certain religion, culture or race.

Madame Chair, terrorism is a scourge that has effected everyone without distinction. My country has and continues to suffer from terrorist actions that have reaped the lives of many innocent citizens and have caused serious damage to the economy. Despite its limited resources and capabilities, my country has undertaken many practical measures and procedures that would -- to confront terrorism in a manner that does not violate the principles of international law and international instruments pertaining to human rights. We have successfully implemented many qualitative operations targeting terrorist groups over the past period and we have succeeded in apprehending many of these terrorist elements and abort their missions.

In this regard, we call upon the international community to stand in solidarity alongside my country in combating terrorism by enhancing its national capacities and offering technical and security support and coordination. The measures that my country is adopting to combat terrorism constitute an extra burden on it because my state is considered one of the least developed countries in the world.

This comes with huge challenges including unemployment and the lack of job opportunities which form fertile ground for the recruitment operations by terrorist elements and extremist elements that target Yemeni youth and aim to add them to the ranks of terrorist operations that would harm Yemen and its economy.

The Republic of Yemen is working on enhancing dialogue and understanding among civilizations and cultures because it believes that dialogue is the main element to confront extremism, terrorism and conflict. Moreover, Yemen has adopted and integrated a comprehensive strategy to combat the culture of terrorism and extremism as well as raised awareness among the youth of the importance of tolerance and moderation that are called for by our Islamic religion which rejects extremism and ultranationalism.

We have also incorporated a strategy to improve school curricula including religious teaching and we have closed *madrasahs* and religious centers that used to work outside the supervision of official authorities and which were affiliated with extremist religious sects. We have also launched a new television channel that focuses on the moderation of Islam and we have launched several media campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of terrorism and extremism and their negative effects on society.

Madame Chair, the Yemeni Republic has always called for the need to hold an international conference to define terrorism and to distinguish between terrorism and people and the rights of people under occupation to self-determination and their legitimate struggle for independence, as well as to identify the reasons for terrorism and remove those reasons and remedy them. And these reasons include poverty, unemployment, ignorance and the absence of international justice. We support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's initiative calling for the establishment of an international center to combat terrorism.

Madame Chair, the Yemeni Republic reaffirms its commitment to its obligations in combating terrorism and United Nations' efforts in this regard within the framework of international legitimate resolutions at the forefront of which are the resolutions of the Security Council.

Here Yemen is keen on enhancing its relationship with Security Council committees especially those pertaining to combating terrorism where an expanded team from CTITF has -- I would like you to know that an expanded team from CTITF paid a visit to our country in April of 2010.

The Yemeni government has submitted to the CTC six national reports that include measures that have been taken to combat terrorism. And my country has also joined thirteen international and regional counterterrorism agreements. My country has also incorporated many texts pertaining to counterterrorism in many bilateral agreements such as extradition agreements that have been signed with several countries.

Madame Chair, Yemeni national legislation has responded to the requirements of criminalization mentioned or stipulated by international counterterrorism conventions, including the penal law as well as the law to combat kidnapping and theft, as well as money laundering and the ownership of weapons. We have also discussed a law to regulate and guns and arms ownership and we are completing this legislation.

My country has also formed a penal court, a specialized penal court as well as a specialized appeals unit that consider cases of terrorism. My country would like to confirm the importance of the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy and the need to implement it in a comprehensive manner without any selectivity, especially in terms of combating and dealing with the root causes of terrorism. And here we would like to confirm that the strategy is a continuous approach that must be continuously reviewed by the General Assembly to remedy any shortcomings and to keep up with developments at the international front.

In closing, the Republic of Yemen calls for the speedy arrival at a convention -- or at a consensus on contentious issues pertaining to the comprehensive convention on international terrorism including arriving at a comprehensive legal definition of terrorism that distinguishes clearly between terrorist actions on the one hand, and legitimate right of peoples under foreign occupation to self-determination and to struggle for independence.

And here we would like to support the expedited consultations that are ongoing now and we hope that they arrive at the required consensus. And we believe that this will enhance the existing legal framework aimed at suppressing international terrorism and remedy the gaps. I thank you, Madame Chair.