

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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**Statement by
The Delegation of Egypt**

before

**the Sixth Committee
on item 109**

**Measures to Eliminate International
Terrorism**

New York, 3 October 2011

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau for your elections. Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General, the Chair and Coordinator of the Ad hoc Committee established pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution A/51/210 for the reports they have presented and for their efforts directed towards the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention and convening the High Level Conference.

Furthermore, we would like to commend the Secretary General's initiative for convening the high level Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation on the 19th of September 2011 during the high level segment of the 66th session to evaluate the course of the international efforts to combat terrorism and calibrate its effectiveness. The Symposium also coincided with the tenth commemoration of the heinous terrorist attacks of 9/11, the criminal act that illustrated clearly the increasing threat posed by terrorism to world peace and security, and reaffirmed the international community's solidarity with the victims of this tragedy and their families.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of its motivations or objectives, committed by whomsoever and wherever, and remains committed more than before to actively and effectively combating terrorism within the full implementation of its commitments and obligations in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions by the United Nations in this regard.

The continuing persistence of the terrorist threat, evidenced by the latest incidents in Abuja, Norway and Mumbai, indicates clearly the need to exert more efforts and to better coordinate our joint endeavors to combat this phenomenon. Experience has unmistakably confirmed that combating terrorism solely through military and security means will not lead to the desired results, and that regional and international cooperation is essential for the implementation of the 13 Conventions and the Counter Terrorism Strategy.

Addressing the root causes effectively and eliminating the conditions conducive to the spread of Terrorism is of paramount importance. This can only be achieved through avoiding double standards, selectivity and politicization, and through putting an end to conflicts, implementing international legitimacy, ending foreign occupation, recognizing the right of peoples for self determination, putting an end to States' practice of State Terrorism and ensuring justice. Poverty reduction, education, promotion of tolerance and understanding are also key areas as well as providing technical assistance and capacity building to the countries in need. We consider the UNESCO developed programs aiming to foster dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect as reflected in the Secretary General's report as well as the prominent role of Al Azhar, the oldest and most influential Islamic Institution, as instrumental in this field.

Furthermore, reaffirming the importance to ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with international law, in particular international human rights and international humanitarian law is also a priority. In this regard, we stress the importance of preserving the right of freedom of expression as reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and welcome, in the same vein, the efforts to counter any incitement to commit a terrorist act. Achieving the necessary delicate balance between preserving the fundamental rights and freedoms on one hand and countering incitement on the other is a prerequisite for the success of our endeavors in this area. In this context, Egypt strongly condemns any attempt at linking the crime of terrorism to any religion, culture or ethnic group. We believe that irresponsible statements that attempt to associate the crime of terrorism with any religion are in themselves a clear incitement to terrorism and inflame hatred among peoples, providing by this an opportunity for terrorists to exploit such factors and to spread their ideas and activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt considers the United Nations Global Strategy on Counter-Terrorism as the guiding comprehensive document for our collective efforts and looks forward to participate actively in its third review during the second half of this session, which will allow us to assess the progress achieved in its implementation as well as evaluate the obstacles. This regular review reaffirms that the Strategy is a living document and constitutes an ongoing effort. We would like to commend the efforts of the CTITF and encourage it to enhance its activities aimed at a balanced implementation of

the four pillars of the strategy in full cooperation with and participation of member states. As noted by the Secretary General's report in this regard, the Council of the League of Arab States called in its resolution adopted on the 2nd March 2011 for continued Arab efforts to follow up the implementation of the strategy and strengthen cooperation in that field with regional and international organizations, in particular UNODC.

In the same vein, our collective response and efforts must be developed to be able to face the new threats of terrorism, such as its growing links with international organized crime, the risk of nuclear terrorism and cyber-terrorism. In this regard, Egypt welcomes the agreement signed between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations to establish the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT) and commits to support the centre's valuable contributions in the field of counter terrorism research and coordination within the United Nations system.

In the same context, Egypt attaches importance to continue the negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on Countering Terrorism. It is important for the provisions of the draft convention to distinguish clearly between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples in the exercise of their right to self-determination under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination. Furthermore, the scope of the acts covered by the draft convention needs to be carefully addressed. We believe that reaffirm our full commitment to start a new round of negotiations in order to reach an agreement on it among all Member States of the GA by consensus.

Egypt stresses further the importance of holding the High-Level Conference on countering terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism and consider it in all its aspects, including to reach a concrete definition of terrorism that differentiates between the legal rules to counter terrorism and the international humanitarian law. This will also assist in the speedy conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention, while taking into consideration that the final document adopted in Bali in May 2011 by the Non-Aligned Movement, and the consecutive documents of the African Union and the League of Arab States Summits emphasized the importance of convening such High Level Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, Egypt reaffirms its commitment to exert all efforts as to defeat terrorism and to achieve international peace and security. We remain persistent not to allow Terrorism to undermine our peaceful way of life and will continue to embrace and cherish the founding values of a safe society, namely that of respect for human rights and the rule of law, multiculturalism and tolerance, and above all, democracy, equality and justice.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.