

COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by

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Sixth Committee

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
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Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Colombia would like to begin by expressing its gratitude to the Secretary-General for the presentation of reports A/61/178 and A/61/210, where the measures adopted by the different bodies of the United Nations system and Member states can be found.

We wish, in particular, to recognize the prolific work carried out by the United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs, in order to promote international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism and the strengthening of national capacity in the area of penal law and the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation reiterates its satisfaction over the recent adoption, by consensus, of the *United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, contained in Resolution A/RES/60/288 and the annexed *Plan of Action*.

During the process of reports and consultations that took place in order to reach this result, dissent and counter-proposals were registered, as is typical in any multilateral process, which at times made it difficult to come to an agreement. Nevertheless, the resolute intention of all members of the General Assembly to face terrorism in a coordinated, comprehensive and convincing manner, no matter where, by whom, and for whatever reason it was perpetrated, always prevailed.

These essential requisites are the center of the approved Strategy. One which recognizes the role of the General Assembly in the fight against terrorism and which is harmonized with that of the Security Council. The cooperation between Member States and the United Nations constitutes a central element to carrying out each of the commitments enshrined in it. Dialogue between civilizations and education for human development are, in the opinion of this delegation, relevant factors of convergence and understanding.

From the beginning, this delegation supported the need to design a *Plan of Action* that incorporated concrete operative measures to prevent, contain and penalize, subject to rule of law at the national and international levels, those involved in terrorist acts.

The adoption of the *Plan of Action* must now translate into the strengthening of international cooperation to synchronize practical actions. It is up to us, consequently, Member States and the United Nations system, to apply without

delay the concrete operative measures found in this document to make them effective, among other measures, the coordination between police forces and intelligence services; judicial cooperation; the detection and repression of mechanisms that finance terrorism and asset laundering; the better coordination at borders to prevent and impede the movement of terrorist groups; the containment of transnational organized crime in all its forms and, among these illicit drug trafficking and the illicit weapons trade.

We must, in turn, deploy all our efforts in strengthening the national capacity of States to prevent and combat terrorism, and look after the proper recovery of the victims of this scourge and their families. Likewise, there is a clear commitment in the Strategy to take on terrorism with full observance for human rights and being subject to the rule of law.

Colombia, which given its own national experience has faced the recurring actions of terrorism, renews its commitment with the adopted Strategy and its full commitment to increase international cooperation for its fulfillment. Likewise, we reiterate our commitment to the adoption of a general convention on international terrorism and call for the convergence of criteria that would allow for a consensual solution.

Mr. Chairman,

Nevertheless, the constant challenges that terrorism has tried to impose on Colombia's institutions, and which have left a large number of victims, the Defense and Democratic Security Policy, conceived and applied to protect democratic order and the rule of law, has proven to be effective, among other results, in the progressive recovery of national confidence and that of investors. This has translated into a revitalization that has reached growth rates of 6% in recent months.

The active presence of the State in all corners of the national territory is now undisputed and the reduction in terrorist activity evident. Only four years ago, out of the 1098 mayors in Colombia, approximately 400 could not carry out their duties in the respective municipalities as a consequence of the actions of terrorist groups. Today, thanks to the measures taken by the national Government, all mayors, independently of their political or ideological affiliation, exercise their mandates from the municipal seats to which they were elected. The number of terrorist attacks in municipalities and rural areas was reduced by 84% in the same period. The reduction of the violence indicators is evidenced in the decrease in the

homicide rate from 60% in 2002 to 39% in 2005. The rate of kidnapping has been reduced in more than 50% in the last year.

While the Government of Colombia is aware of the long way still ahead before the scourge of terrorism is vanquished, the results demonstrate that the decisive will of people and their governments to break the back of terrorist organizations, together with a joint international strategy are necessary elements in reaching this goal. The commitment to democracy and the well being of nations requires us to join efforts to guarantee that it is the force of reason and not unreasonableness that forges our destinies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.