



Statement

by

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to the United Nations**

**at the
Sixth Committee**

Item 109: “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”

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Mr. Chair,

Let me first congratulate you as well as the other members of the Bureau on your election to conduct the work of this committee, and I wish you every success in it.

Mr. Chair,

Our whole country has been united in grief after the death of 8 of our soldiers, who were kept hostage since 2014. They were bravely fighting Da'esh and Al Nossra along our border.

Another proof, if it were needed, is that Lebanon has been severely scarred and torn by terror.

Our Army has eliminated the military presence in Lebanon of those terrorist organizations.

It is also another proof of our determination and persistence to keep defying terror, in line with our commitments under international law.

Here, needless to say that our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations remains firm and absolute and that terrorism should never be associated with any nationality, religion, civilization or ethnic group, but only with savagery.

When dealing with terrorism, it is important to be vigilant with some of the usual misconceptions and distortions. It is a word used so often and sometimes so loosely, especially amidst political turmoil, that it has lost a clear meaning:

For instance:

- Some acts are irresponsibly labeled 'terrorism' only if carried out by members of one religion.
- It has been recurrently observed that the right to resist foreign occupation and the right to self-determination, embedded in international law, are often wrongly equated to terrorism.
- By contrast and strangely, criminal acts committed by settlers illegally occupying the territory of a foreign State are not qualified as terrorist but merely as 'violent acts'.

Hence, Mr. Chair, the importance of clearly defining terrorism, in the context of the working group on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

For many years now, the sixth committee has been commencing its work with this debate, one of the old and still ever present in the agenda. It shows unfortunately how central this topic remains as terrorism continues to be a daunting reality and a constant threat to the world. Not a week passes by without hearing about horrific terrorist attacks from all around the globe.

It is with these harsh reminders that the General Assembly established, in June of this year, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, headed by an Under Secretary-General. Here, my delegation congratulates Mr. Vladimir Voronkov on his appointment as the Head of this newly created Office and assures him of its full support in his arduous task.

This new structure is a positive step and we are confident, that by fulfilling its mandate, the Office will help improve coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism activities in order to be more efficient in our global fight against it.

It will provide better assistance to Member States in their implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Regarding precisely the Strategy, Lebanon calls for a balanced implementation of its four pillars, and we believe that prevention should be given significant attention.

Root causes of terrorism must indeed be addressed: of course, not everyone facing social, political and economic distress follows the path of terrorist radicalization; but all of them may fall prey to terrorist recruiters.

Lebanon will continue its cooperation at all levels and with all relevant partners, ranging from States to civil society and private sector, in an inclusive manner, to pursue its struggle to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to it.

To conclude, Mr. President, let me reiterate that my country stands in solidarity with all the families of the victims of tragic terrorist crimes around the world.