

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement
by
the Delegation
of
the Arab Republic of Egypt

before
the Ad Hoc Committee established pursuant to Resolution
51/210 on 17 December 1996 concerning
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

New York, 12th of April 2010

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to express the Delegation of Egypt's support for the statements of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference and the African Group. We express our appreciation to the Chairman, the Coordinator and the Members of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210 concerned with countering terrorism for their efforts to conclude the Draft Comprehensive Convention, and the holding of the International Conference to Combat Terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

The Delegation of Egypt reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motivations or justifications. It also stresses the importance not to associate terrorism with a religion or a particular culture rather than disseminating a culture of tolerance that appeals to all religions. Establishing such a link leads to resentment, inflames hatred among peoples and promotes opportunities for terrorists to exploit such factors to spread their ideas and activities that threaten the safety of peoples and in recruiting of new generations of terrorists.

From this perspective, the Delegation of Egypt emphasizes the need to address the root causes and eliminate the conditions conducive to its spread, particularly the political, economic, and security. This should be achieved through the elimination of conflicts, ending foreign occupation, recognizing the right of peoples to self-determination, States putting an end to exercising state terrorism, and to eliminate all feelings of injustice and frustration that result from the application of double standards, politicization and selectivity.

In this regard, the Delegation of Egypt underscores the necessity of activating the process of negotiations on Article 18 of the Comprehensive Convention or re-consider the definition of terrorist acts contained in paragraph (2) in order to emphasize the distinction between a terrorist act and the legal acts under international humanitarian law that are carried out by the national liberation movements in the exercise of their right to self-determination, as well as criminalizing acts committed by governments against innocent civilians to intimidate them in their exercise of State terrorism. The Delegation of Egypt reaffirms its full readiness to actively participate in the next round of intergovernmental negotiations in order to reach agreement among all Member States in the General Assembly.

In the same context, the Delegation of Egypt recalls that the adoption of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy constitutes a major turning point to deal with this international phenomenon from legislation of the thirteen conventions that have been concluded so far, to create, promote and review a comprehensive international framework to promote international cooperation and integration in dealing with this phenomenon. There is no doubt that the time has come to overcome the difference in views to complement such international efforts to reach agreement on

the outstanding issues in the Draft Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism in order to complete the legal and practical framework to fight terrorism.

Here, we should express our appreciation for the efforts exerted by the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies to cooperate among themselves in the field of countering terrorism and stress the importance to resume these efforts to analyze the potential weaknesses in securing the maritime, aviation traffic and public facilities, which includes large gatherings, to assess potential threats in a changing international environment in order to determine the appropriate countermeasures to address them, to prevent acts of terrorism and to optimally respond to them. This requires strengthening the cooperation and complementarity among Member States and the secretariat through formulating policies, making plans and implementing them.

From the same perspective, the Delegation of Egypt stresses the importance of convening an International Conference against Terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations to reach a specific definition of terrorism that differentiates between legal rules to combat terrorism and international humanitarian law, taking into account what is stated in the Final Document of the Non-Aligned Movement issued in Sharm el-Sheikh in July 2009 and of the Documents of the successive Summits of the African, Arab and Islamic, which stress the need to hold this international conference.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, the Delegation of Egypt emphasizes its commitment to make every effort to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to address this phenomenon in a framework that promotes the rules of international legitimacy and the role of the United Nations in achieving international peace and security.

Thank you Mr. Chair.