

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by
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Before
The Sixth Committee of the
73th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On
"Measures to eliminate international terrorism"
(Agenda item 111)

New York, 3 October 2018

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism has been a global threat for decades. It has claimed countless innocent lives, disturbed normal life in many countries and endangered peace and security in many regions. Unfortunately, today it becomes more diffuse and pervasive with a new and evolving nature, especially involving information and communication technologies. Although ISIS has been defeated in Iraq and Syria, their ideology will not simply fade away. The Takfiri ideology used by terrorists from Al-Qaida to ISIS to craft distorted narratives based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of Islam to justify violence cannot be eliminated solely through military, political, or economic means. Any effective strategy against it must entail, at its core, a major cultural and ideological component.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a need for a comprehensive plan as well as close cooperation and coordination between relevant stakeholders to eradicate terrorism. The United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy provides such a common platform for cooperation and we support its implementation in an integrated and balanced way.

Besides, applying double-standards in the area of international counter-terrorism cooperation and a one-sided interpretation of the notion of "terrorism" provide a safe haven for terrorist groups and their affiliates to freely grow, recruit and perpetrate unspeakable atrocities. We should bear in mind that selective and double-standard approaches categorizing "good" and "bad" terrorists for the purpose of short-sighted political interests would not help to uproot terrorism.

Another longstanding issue to examine is the endemic and age-old problem of foreign invasion and occupation and what it has brought in its wake. The seventy-year state of occupation of Palestine is the most pressing. This has been further compounded by the systematic political and military foreign interventions in our region in order to preserve and create their desired regional arrangements.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as victims of terrorism in the past and today, have always been and will always remain at the forefront of genuine confrontation with terrorism. Last year, the cowardly terrorists affiliated with ISIS carried out twin terrorist attacks in Tehran. Several innocent citizens, including women, were killed and dozens were injured. Just a few days ago, on 22 September of this year, a heinous terrorist attack took place in Ahvaz, a southwestern city of Iran. This terrorist attack resulted in the killing of at least 24 people, including children, and injury of 60 others.

Such blind attacks not only left untouched the unreserved will of the Islamic Republic of Iran to vigorously fight all manifestations of terrorism, it further rendered our nation more resolute and has added momentum to the Iranian Government's contribution to the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to actively engaging in the fight against terrorism in all frontiers and in that regard, has taken effective legal measures to strengthen its national capabilities to suppress terrorism. In this context, the National Strategy for Countering Terrorist Acts, including the requirements for suppressing terrorists, was adopted in 2013 by the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Furthermore, and as a major step, the Countering Financing Terrorism (CFT) Act was approved by the Parliament in 2016. All offences related to the financing of terrorism, which have been criminalized in this Act, are compatible with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Moreover, a new draft amendment on Countering Financing Terrorism Act, aimed at filling the gaps of existing law, has been adopted by the Parliament in early July of this year.

In the context of international contributions to fight against terrorism, the Bill of Accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism was adopted in the Cabinet of Ministers in November 2017 and submitted to the Parliament to proceed its relevant legislative procedures. This bill is now before the Parliament for its consideration.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has also signed mutual legal assistance agreements and MOUs with more than 40 countries in which the freezing of crime-related funds and assets have been addressed. In all of these bilateral agreements, the possibility of any judicial cooperation, exchange of information, and necessary coordination is stipulated; terrorist crimes are also covered by such cooperation measures.

Having considered the importance of training, capacity building and technical assistance, which is essential for a thorough implementation of AML and CFT Act, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been cooperating with UNODC on deliverables and activities that fall under countering of terrorism and anti- money laundering.

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to the establishment of OCT, I would like to congratulate the Secretary-General for initiating this structural reform. We look forward to Mr. Voronkov bringing forth more professionalism, transparency and efficiency to the OCT's activities. In this regard, we would like to underline that there is an urgent need to improve the efficiency of the UNCCT and bring the Center to the level of the other UN entities, including adopting its terms of reference in the General Assembly. To enhance the level of the engagement of Member States in the work of the Center, it is essential that the members of its Advisory Board be elected by the General Assembly. Furthermore, the meetings of the advisory board shall be open to all Member States, as it is the case with the other UN meetings.

To conclude my statement, I would like to underscore that countering terrorism should be done in full conformity with the United Nations Charter and international law. One bold departure of this conformity is labeling other states for political purposes. We strongly reject the unilateral preparation of lists accusing other states of so-called sponsoring terrorism and any subsequences thereof, which is inconsistent with international law and is merely exploited as a political tool to advance other agendas and political goals against enlisting governments. Such unilateral acts would only undermine urgently required joint efforts by all states to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.