

Statement

On behalf of the Republic of Namibia

By Mr. Jerry Mika

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, 4 October 2018

Mr. Chair

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Namibia, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my warm congratulations to you and the members of the bureau on your election. We assure you of our full support as you steer the important work of the Committee during this Session. Equally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for his report on this agenda item.

Namibia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Republic of the Gambia on behalf of the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chair

Namibia firmly believes that a terrorist attack on any country is an attack on all of us, as terrorism irrespective of its origins or the form it takes, goes against the values we share with the international community. Namibia, therefore, strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chair

Recognising the importance of a global coordinated response to the ever evolving global threat of terrorism, Namibia has over the past couple of years adopted a number of robust legislative interventions aimed at combatting and preventing international terrorism in accordance with the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. These interventions *inter alia* are as follows:

1. Legislation Against the Financing of Terrorism

In 2012, Namibia passed a coherent and comprehensive Financial Intelligence Act, (Act No. 13 of 2012). The Act established the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) which serves as the national centre responsible for collecting, requesting, receiving and analyzing suspicious transaction reports and suspicious activity reports which may relate to possible money laundering or the financing of terrorism. The Act further created the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of the Financing of Terrorism Council of Namibia.

2. Prevention and Combating of Terrorist and Proliferation Activities

In an aggressive approach to eliminate the threat of international terrorism, Namibia in 2012, parallel with the promulgation of the Financial Intelligence Act also passed the Prevention and Combating of Terrorist Activities Act, (Act No. 12 of 2012). The revised version of the Act was passed in 2014 in the form of the Prevention and Combating of Terrorist and Proliferation Activities Act, (Act No. 4 of 2014).

The Act among other things provides for the safety of maritime navigation, the protection of airports and aircraft, the protection of internationally protected persons (such as the Heads of State), offences related to fixed platforms, nuclear terrorism and the financing of terrorism. In ensuring compliance with treaty obligations, the Act also incorporates and expressly makes reference to the various counter-terrorism treaties ratified by Namibia.

3. Integrated Border Control System

Continuing on the same trajectory, Namibia in September 2017 launched the "E-Border Control Management Systems in order to effectively manage and mitigate the challenges associated with migration, which include, but are not limited to, cross-border crimes, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

While Namibia, condemns all acts of terrorism, we wish to highlight the importance of distinguishing between acts of terrorism and acts of people fighting against colonial or foreign domination in the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination. Namibia attaches great importance to this distinction, given its past experience of having being denied the right to self-determination, for many years when it was under the administration of the then South African apartheid regime.

Mr. Chair,

Finally, the late Nelson Mandela, whose centenary we celebrated this year, once said, and I quote "it always seems impossible until its done" unquote. Namibia believes that a terror free world is possible and we therefore look forward to strengthened cooperation at regional and multilateral level in order to effectively address the question of international terrorism.

I thank you.