Selected quotes from the meeting on the ‘Measures to eliminate international terrorism’

October 12, 2015

UN General Assembly Sixth Committee

1.  Algeria -

My delegation stresses the need to agree upon an accurate definition of terrorism.  Such definition should be in line with the United Nations Charter and the International Law, and should avoid any confusion between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation to achieve their inalienable right to self-determination, as endorsed by the General Assembly resolution 46/51 and other related United Nations documents…

2.  Iran on behalf of NAM -

Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, for self-determination and national liberation.  The brutalization of peoples remaining under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and the use of State power for the suppression and violence against peoples struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned.  The Movement reaffirms its principled position under international law and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 as well as other relevant UN resolutions on the legitimacy of the struggles of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination.

3. Iran -

Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.  This approach is aimed at prolonging occupation of their territories and oppression of the peoples under occupation.  This is extremely important when it comes to any definition of terrorism including in any international legal instrument.

4. Lebanon -

However, it seems that we are still struggling to overcome our political divergences and come up with a clear and unified definition of terrorism… Too often for instance, the legitimate right to resist foreign occupation is associated with terrorism

5. Malaysia -

One issue that is of particular concern for our delegation is that there

should be a clear distinction between acts of terrorism and the legitimate

acts of resistance to foreign aggression and the struggle of peoples under

colonial or alien domination and foreign domination, as provided by the UN

Charter and recognised principles of international law.

6. Pakistan -

Pakistan fully supports the OIC position on a consensus-based Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).  The provisions of this draft Convention must be consistent with International Humanitarian Law.  It should clearly differentiate between acts of terrorism and legitimate struggles for self-determination of people living under foreign occupation.

7. Saudi Arabia on behalf of OIC -

Once again, the Group reiterates the need to make a distinction between terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation and would like to stress that this distinction is duly observed in International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and the General Assembly resolution 46/51...

The OIC Group reaffirms its commitment to the process of negotiations and underscores the need for progress in this regard.  We reiterate our previous proposal on the scope of the draft Convention, and reaffirm our determination to make every effort to reach a consensus agreement on the draft convention, by resolving the outstanding issues including those related to the legal definition of terrorism.  These issues include the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the rights of self-determination by people under foreign occupation, and colonial or alien domination, as well as on the scope of the acts covered by the draft Convention.