Sixth Committee

Agenda Item: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Speech of Libya

October 5

LIBYA: I congratulate you, Your Excellency, Madame Isabelle Picco, and through you, I would like also to congratulate the Vice Chairman and the Rapporteur for your elections. We have confidence in your competence and skills and let me assure you of our full support for your efforts.

Madame Chairperson, let me assure you that I shall be brief. I want to reiterate what has been said in the statements of the delegations of Syria, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the statement of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement by Ghana on behalf of the African Group.

The contents and thrust of those statements which represent a large number of countries across the globe only seek to find a comprehensive and serious treatment of the phenomenon of terrorism. Also, we would like to express our appreciation for many variable views put forward in the statements today.

These statements and before then the report of the Secretary General and the report of the Ad Hoc Committee revealed the measures taken at both national and international levels in order to eliminate terrorism. There is no disagreement on this goal and the elimination of a scourge that continues to pose a threat to the whole system of human, morale and legal values.

Despite the unity of goal, it is unfortunate that we have failed so far to agree on the means to achieve that objective. Mechanisms still employed, still fall too short from the requirements needed to achieve the desired goal. That is the fact that a lack has been demonstrated by the discussion and the documents related to this item. Unfortunately some voices still remain from the objectives of genuine cooperation and common approach that would go beyond the partial measures and quick political categorizations that fell short of dealing with the overall concept of terrorism.

The important achievements made by the General Assembly over the past years, few years, the global UN strategy to combat terrorism, the draft comprehensive convention to combat terrorism continue to run into obstacles.

Madame Chairperson, my country for its part at the international level both legislative and executive a number of measures have been taken to address terrorism. This was demonstrated to the UN Committee that combats terrorism, that is, Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1373 which visited Libya in the middle of last year.

Libya continues to work at the international level in order to convene an international conference in order to deal with the question of terrorism and to address the root causes and drafting a code of conduct for measures in order to address terrorism.

In particular, from the beginning, we supported the notion of a comprehensive convention and we think that delay in drawing up that convention pending a consensus of that, this perhaps might call for a review of the modus operandi and the procedures. How could it not be possible within the framework of a legal committee we fail to reach a convention which is so vital for the international community as a whole? How could we disagree over defining an act of terrorism which is different from struggle against foreign occupation and domination? How could we disagree on the right of people to self-determination and the safety of their territorial lands?

These are established principles in international law. Disregarding all that would depart us from legal actions and denial of the rights of people for resistance of foreign occupation which is legitimate, and trying to assess that struggle with acts of terrorism. This would perpetuate injustice for an occupation and domination.

How could that comprehensive convention to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and irrespective of its justifications and that we should also hold liable those who commit these acts including states. And how could we disregard the resistance of these policies of double-standards especially in the Middle East region?

And that would be used for political expedience away from transparent measures that should address the question of elimination of terrorism.

Madame Chairperson, looking for a future in which there would be peace, security, and stability for all requires the end of an era that was hallmarked by an absence of common approach and measures to combat terrorism.

My country would not hesitate to support any efforts of initiatives that would ensure as early as possible the reaching of a common approach and a compromise solution on all pending issues in this regard. I thank you, Madame.