Sixth Committee

Agenda Item: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Speech of Qatar

October 6

QATAR: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Madame Chair, as this is the first time that I address this Committee in its current session, I would like to start by expressing my congratulations to you for assuming the leadership of this Committee, and I wish you and the other members of the Bureau all success in conducting our affairs and in achieving success and valuable results in this session.

Our delegation also aligns itself with the statement of the representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the statement of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Madame Chair, terrorism is one of the great international challenges in today's world and, as such, an international challenge that confronts humanity throughout the world. It must be addressed through coordinated international efforts, not only in the fields of security, but also through coordinated legal, doctrinal and intellectual efforts as well.

We have emphasized more than once that addressing this phenomena cannot take place through waging wars. Such a solution did not achieve security, peace or prosperity. Quite the contrary, it has spread destruction, fear, murder and the displacement of population and has undermined efforts to conduct a dialogue among cultures and religions and has harmed the efforts to combat terrorism.

Everyone today realizes the dangers of terrorism. Confronting this scourge in the same way as confronting all other challenges facing our world today must be conducted through calculated steps and within a just, legitimate and legal framework. We should also reject combating any form of terrorism by conducting another form of terrorism, such as state terrorism.

Today efforts still continue to connect between terrorism and Islam. In addition to the fact that such a claim is false and unfounded, it has also distorted the image of the war against terrorism in the minds of many and has undermined efforts to combat international terrorism.

Madame Chair, the State of Qatar as a member of the international community faces the same international challenges including terrorism and seeks to carry out all possible efforts to cooperate with international and regional parties to combat this threat.

Qatar has become party to twelve international instruments and three regional instruments in the field of antiterrorism. These are the Arab Convention on Antiterrorism, the Gulf Cooperation Council Convention on Combating Terrorism, and the Treaty of the Organization of Islamic Conference to combat international terrorism. Locally the state also is trying to adopt internal legislation and to amend existing legislation in order to implement the obligations of these conventions. This includes the law on anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism and the law of civil aviation in 2007. We also established the National Council on Antiterrorism which is in charge of laying policies and programs and coordinating antiterrorism efforts as well as raising awareness on the dangers of terrorism and emphasizing the role of the citizen and civil society in those efforts. This year also we have established a National Committee to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and issued a new law which gives the general prosecutor the authority to freeze the assets of terrorists and also finance terrorism as well as international organizations so designated by that Committee and by the Security Council.

Qatar has signed several agreements and bilateral memorandums of understanding with states inside and outside the region in the field of counterterrorism and security cooperation. In Doha on May 11-12, 2009, a workshop was held in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime about respecting human rights in the efforts to combat terrorism in order to raise awareness about the legal framework for combating terrorism and the respect of human rights and international cooperation.

Madame Chair, Qatar has emphasized and continues to emphasize the importance of condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its sources and motivations and justifications and on the need to address and treat its roots and the factors that feed this phenomena. This includes prevention of incitement against minorities, races, religions and foreigner, xenophobia, as well as trying to resolve long-term conflicts because this is one of the most important factors that lead to the spread of terrorism, as indicated in the United Nations Global Strategy on Counterterrorism. It is also important to agree upon a clear definition and the realistic definition of terrorism as a first step and this should distinguish between terrorism and legitimate right for liberation from foreign occupation. And thank you, Madame Chair.