

AFGHANISTAN

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY

**MOHAMMAD ERFANI AYOOB
MINISTER COUSELLOR**

ON AGENDA ITEM (108)

“ MEASRURES TO ELEMIMATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing, on behalf of the delegation of Afghanistan, my warm congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau of the Sixth Committee on your election, and assure you of our full cooperation and support. We are confident that, under your able guidance, the proceedings of the Committee will result in a fruitful outcome.

I also wish to express my delegation's sincere condolences to the victims of terrorism around the world and, in particular, to the victims of most recent terrorist acts committed in Bali.

Afghanistan attaches high importance to the agenda item "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", currently under the consideration of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

The latest brutal attacks targeting innocent civilians in Bali clearly demonstrates the ongoing threat posed by terrorism against international peace and security. This criminal phenomenon does not represent any single culture, religion or race, and can occur anywhere, and at any time and everybody can be a target . Afghanistan condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal, and remains of the conviction that terrorism can never be justified, irrespective of its motivations, objectives, forms or manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

As stated by the Secretary General in his report on the topic "strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism " terrorism poses a threat to the principals enshrined in the United Nations Charter; namely, respect for human rights; protection of civilians, tolerance among people and nations: and the peaceful resolution of conflicts .

The United Nations has the central role to play in the fight against international terrorism. In this context, we welcome the counter-terrorism strategy proposed by the Secretary General. The successful establishment of a broad legal-framework in the field of counter-terrorism is the clear indication of the central role of the United Nations in combating international terrorism.

The conclusion of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and its subsequent adoption by the General Assembly in April 2005, has been a significant achievement of the Ad-Hoc Committee, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 1996. In this regard, we wish to congratulate Ambassador Rohan Perera and his colleagues for their efforts.

Afghanistan is a party to all 12 International Conventions and Protocols concerning international terrorism and is considering becoming party to the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, adopted by the heads of States and Government, endorsed the need to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism during the 60th session of the General Assembly. While significant progress has been on most of the issues, we need to continue to work together, in the spirit of cooperation and understanding, to finalize the draft convention under consideration. In this context, my delegation expresses its gratitude to Ambassador Mohammad Bennouna, Chairman of the Sixth Committee during the 59th Session, for holding the informal consultations to negotiate the outstanding issues.

Afghanistan supports the call made for the convening of a High Level Conference on Terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations, to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to pave the way for dialogue, tolerance and understanding among religions, faiths and cultures. We believe that the convening of such a High-level Conference, upon the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention, could contribute in strengthening international cooperation against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

My country, as one of the main victims of international terrorism, continues to be engaged in the forefront of the international campaign against terrorism. We all remember the situation that prevailed in Afghanistan prior to the horrific events of September 11, 2001. Afghanistan was occupied by Taliban and Al-Qaeda and the capital, Kabul, served as the capital of international terrorists.

Much has changed in Afghanistan during the past four years. The determination and political will of the people of Afghanistan, coupled with the assistance of the international community, have resulted in the successful implementation of the Bonn Agreement. A new Constitution guaranteeing fundamental freedoms – in accordance with the principles of democracy – was adopted by the Constitutional Loya Jirga and Presidential elections were held. As a result, President Karzai became the first-ever elected President of Afghanistan. In addition, with the recent conclusion of Parliamentary elections, we remain on track to convene the first session of our newly elected parliament by the end of December of this year.

The Government of Afghanistan reaffirms its strong commitment to the combat international terrorism. In compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular, S.C. resolution 1373 (2001) and the most recently adopted resolution 1624 (2005), Afghanistan adopted new legislative measures against all forms of criminal activities, including transnational organized crime, arms smuggling, the production and trafficking of drugs, as well as money laundering. We are currently in the process of preparing new reports to this effect, to be submitted to the Counter Terrorism Committee of the Security Council.

Mr. Chairman,

The cultivation and trafficking of narcotics and organized crime are other challenges to international peace and security. In the case of Afghanistan, there exists a direct connection between the trafficking of illicit drugs and terrorism. In this context, the Government of Afghanistan continues to make progress in adopting a series of measures aimed at combating the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

The establishment of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy (ANDCS); the creation of a counter-narcotics Ministry, and the establishment of a Special Tribunal to prosecute those associated with the cultivation, production and trafficking of illegal drugs are only some of the initiatives taken by the Afghan Government to combat and eliminate the scourge of narcotic drugs.

In this respect, we would like to commend the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and its Terrorism Prevention Branch for the initiatives taken under the Global Program against Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Our achievements, with the help of the international community, are significant. However, we continue to face challenges. We would like to highlight the importance of the sustained support of the international community to Afghanistan in dealing with the remaining challenges. Terrorists remain to be an obstacle to peace and democracy and are trying to undermine the ongoing democratic process in Afghanistan. The remnants of the terror campaign, comprising the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and other extremists and fanatics, continue to attack our citizens and threaten our society, as they interpret success in Afghanistan as their own defeat.

In order to fight the terrorism to the end and solve the drug problem, Afghanistan has to further develop and defend the achieved democratic values, create jobs for the millions of the young and unemployed, create alternative livelihood for poor farmers who are cultivating narcotic drugs, promote dialogue and tolerance among the different political groups, provide education for its citizens, build hospitals and clinics, and most importantly, address human development and human rights, especially protect the rights of women.

In its part, Afghanistan is doing its best in the fight against the scourge of terrorism, but in order to succeed, it needs the long term assistance and cooperation of the international community. However, our struggles will be futile if the international community falters in helping us to defeat terrorists and their extremist and fanatic ideologies in Afghanistan and in the region.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation wishes to thank all those involved in the fight against terrorism in our country and in the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.