



Jordan

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Statement by Jordan's Representative

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Before the Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 108: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to extend my delegation's condolences for the families of the victims of the earthquake that recently hit Pakistan and to offer our sympathies for this disaster.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the permanent representative of Yemen, on behalf of the O.I.C. group. We also would add the following:

The Jordanian government condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and calls for the intensification of efforts to combat this phenomenon which inflicts the various regions of the world. Terrorism is not the problem of a certain country or a certain people. It is a threat to the system of international relations and to the policies of international economic and social development. It is therefore an interest for everyone to work on the creation of common strategies, within the U.N. framework, to deal effectively with terrorism and to abort the plans of its perpetrators to destroy human life and disturb international peace.

It is without doubt that the terrorists strive to make peoples and civilizations clash; to spread hatred; and to feed on racism and racial and religious discrimination. We should all work to raise awareness against these goals and not to allow the terrorists to succeed. Accordingly, terrorism should not be tied to a certain religion, culture or region. History has ample examples of terrorist acts being committed by individuals with different ideologies, cultures and religions. However, they all have a goal of terrorizing civilians and achieving political ends. What makes a person a terrorist is his/her action; not his/her religion, race or birthplace. Understanding this matter is crucial in the fight against terrorism. Otherwise, we will be creating fertile grounds for terrorists to spread their extremist ideology. We should take all precautions to guarantee the respect of human rights and civil liberties when taking counter-terrorism measures whether on the national or international levels. To infringe on these rights and liberties, under any pretext or justification, serves to achieve the terrorists' goals in feeding hatred and discrimination which in turn creates a suitable environment for the dissemination of terrorist ideology.

Mr. Chairman,

On this basis, Jordan supports the counter-terrorism strategy suggested by the United Nations Secretary General. We hope, following the adoption of the Outcome Document during the Sixtieth Session Summit, that serious consideration be given for the means to implement such a strategy. It is, further, important for the General Assembly and the Security Council to complement each other's efforts and policies to combat terrorism within the U.N. framework. Implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, including SCR 1373, is a priority and a binding necessity. Yet, a more comprehensive framework in any international strategy to fight terrorism is the General Assembly. What is adopted there is the *conviction* of the international community on how to react to a certain situation. And a long term strategy requires the conviction of the international community, not coercion.

Jordan welcomes the adoption of the Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism which aims at combating one of the most dangerous forms of terrorism on human life. The Jordanian government has initiated the necessary process for the signature and ratification of this convention in the near future.

Concerning the draft Comprehensive Convention, Jordan would like to express its readiness to work with the various parties to resolve the outstanding and reach consensus on the text of the convention as soon as possible. We reiterate the need for this convention to be an effective law enforcement that respects the normative rules of international law and does not infringe on the principles of international humanitarian law.

Finally, Jordan welcomes the Saudi Arabian initiative for the creation of a task force to study the establishment of an international center to combat terrorism. Jordan also supports the call by Egypt for the convening of an international conference on terrorism.