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STATEMENT BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT
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**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) GROUP
ON THE AGENDA ITEM 108: MEASURES TO
ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM**

6 OCTOBER 2005, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the members of the OIC Group on agenda item 108 entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, and through you, to the members of the Bureau, on your election, and we are confident that you will lead our work ably and wisely. I also avail myself of this opportunity to extend our thanks to Ambassador Rohan Perera, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 for his report, contained in document A/60/37.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing our condolences for the victims of terrorist acts all around the world, including the victims of recent attacks in Bali, Indonesia.

The OIC Group strongly condemns all acts and practices of terrorism, and remains convinced that terrorism, irrespective of its motivations, objectives, forms and manifestations, can never be justified.

Extremism and violence, being witnessed in the world today, do not differentiate between one people and another, or between one culture and another. This affirms that terrorism should not be associated with any race, religion or culture.

Mr. Chairman,

The year 2005 has witnessed many discussions and deliberations at the United Nations with regard to combating terrorism. In his report on the work of the Organization, contained in document A/60/1, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has stated that “terrorism is a threat to all the United Nations stands for: respect for human rights, the

rule of law, the protection of civilians, tolerance among peoples and nations and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.”

The Final Document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, held on 14-16 September 2005, and attended by leaders of the Member States of the United Nations, has stressed the necessity to make every effort to reach an agreement on, and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The delegations of the members of the OIC Group would continue to cooperate and positively work to adopt the draft convention by consensus, and believe that it is important to arrive at a clear and universally-agreed definition of terrorism while drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In this context, the Group believes that terrorism and the struggle of people who fight for self-determination against foreign occupation, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, should be differentiated.

We also support the initiative to convene a high-level conference 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.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC Group is concerned at the report of the Coordinator on the results of the informal consultations on the draft convention, held from 25 to 29 July 2005. The report was expected to be only a factual summary of the proceedings of the informal consultations. However, it attempted to produce a “consolidated text”, which not only omitted the proposal made by the OIC Group on article 18, but also renumbered the articles and made certain technical changes. The OIC Group believes that such a text raises serious issues of mandate and prejudices the negotiations process and the efforts for the early conclusion of the draft convention. The Group also believes that, in order to facilitate the negotiations and the work of the Committee, negotiations on the draft convention should be based on the reports of the Working Group and of the Ad Hoc Committee, particularly the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, contained in document A/57/37.

In view of the importance attached by the leaders of the world to this issue in the Outcome Document, the OIC Group believes that the forthcoming meetings and negotiations of the Working Group should be conducted in a formal setting by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. We expect that the next report of the Working Group should consolidate all the proposals on the table, including those submitted by the OIC Group.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to recall that, in the Final Communiqué adopted on 23 September 2005 in New York, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OIC Member States have reiterated their support for Tunisia's initiative to elaborate by consensus an international counter-terrorism code of conduct within the framework of the United Nations. The Final Communiqué also called on all Member States of the UN and international organizations to support this initiative when it is tabled before the General Assembly.

The members of the OIC Group also reiterate their support for the proposal of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, made at the International Counter-Terrorism Conference, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 5-8 February 2005, for the establishment of an international center for counter-terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by expressing the hope that our work during this session will be successful and the goals to which we aspire will be achieved.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.