



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement**

*by*

**H. E. Mr. Allieu Ibrahim Kanu**  
**Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative**

**at the**

**Sixth Committee**

***On Agenda Item 108:***  
***Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism***

***Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005***

**Check Against Delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

Sierra Leone associates with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Yemen on behalf of the OIC Group. We also associate with the statement made by Namibia on behalf of the African Group. We are however making these remarks from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman, we share the view that terrorism is a threat to all that humanity stands for: respect for human rights, the rule of law, the protection of civilians and tolerance among civilizations.

Sierra Leone has for a number of years condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whether committed by states or non-States. It is a threat to international peace and security and in this regard, we send our condolences to the Government and people of Indonesia for the recent terrorist attack in Bali.

Sierra Leone subscribes in conformity with the African Convention to all efforts to combat terrorism and also supports other African efforts in that regard, but the legitimate struggles of people under foreign occupation must be distinguished from terrorism. The legitimate right of people for their independence and in defense of their self determination cannot be in anyway called terrorism. However, Sierra Leone believes that the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians cannot be justified or legitimized by any cause, and we condemn any action that is purposefully committed by whomsoever to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians.

Mr. Chairman, Sierra Leone welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General, in calling for a global strategy, for tackling the threat of terrorism. We believe that this global strategy should include tackling the root causes in society that turn people to terrorism, for example poverty, and youth unemployment. Those, unemployed youths, who believe they have no stake in society, provide a fertile ground for recruitment by terrorists. In my sub-region, there is a band of unemployed youths who roam the streets with no engagement in any productive activity, and provide a ready target for terrorist recruitment. Our experience in Sierra Leone provides concrete evidence for this assertion. My delegation argues that we should not treat lightly the interconnectedness of terrorism to economic development. Sierra Leone believes that the international

community should support and assist in the realization of the Doha Plan of Action negotiated by developing countries in June this year, as a way of eradicating poverty and in extenso, combating terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, Sierra Leone shares the view that in the fight against terrorism, human rights must never be compromised. In this regard, we support the Secretary-General's call for the creation of a Special Rapporteur to examine the counter-terrorism measures taken by States and report on their compatibility with international human rights laws.

We believe and agree with those who argue that an effective international counter-terrorism strategy, require the cooperation of all states at the bi-lateral, regional and international levels. This co-operation must be in conformity with international law and states must ensure that those who perpetrate terrorist acts, or conspire to perpetrate terrorist acts are denied a safe haven and must be brought to justice on the basis of the principle, **aut dedere aut judicare**.

Mr. Chairman, sierra Leone's commitment to the fight against terrorism is steadfast and unwavering. We are a party to the twelve sectoral conventions. Our distinguished President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, himself during the high-level summit, signed the Nuclear Terrorism Convention. Our signing that convention at that level is clear demonstration of our commitment to the fight against terrorism. Sierra Leone has in the national level put in place practical measures to ensure that our territory is not used for terrorist activities. During this session, Sierra Leone is going to demonstrate flexibility in the negotiations for a comprehensive convention. We note that significant progress had been made so far in the negotiations and the differences that divide us are not insurmountable. With a spirit of give and take, we shall prevail. We owe it to humanity and generations yet unborn to prevail during this session and adopt a comprehensive convention. Sierra Leone stands ready to contribute to this effort.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.