



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF  
**SOUTH AFRICA**  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

333 East 38th Street  
9th Floor  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel: (212) 213-5583  
Fax: (212) 692-2498  
E-mail: [pmun@southafrica-newyork.net](mailto:pmun@southafrica-newyork.net)

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**ADV. JOAN SCHNEEBERGER**

**STATE LAW ADVISER (IL)**

**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**ON**

**MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

**AGENDA ITEM 108**

**IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE**

**Check on delivery**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Chairperson, I wish to congratulate you on assuming the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee during this sixtieth session, which is the session that will finalise the comprehensive convention on terrorism. We are confident that under your wise leadership we shall reach a fruitful outcome in straightening our multilateral mechanisms to combat terrorism.

Mr. Chairperson I also wish to congratulate all the members of the Bureau on their election.

Mr. Chairperson, South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Botswana on behalf of the Southern African Development Community.

The South African Government joins the rest of the international community in condemning any acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purpose. The South African government firmly believes that terrorism must be condemned in the strongest terms and without equivocation and that the perpetrators of this crime must be brought to justice.

Mr. Chairperson, terrorism inflicts grave suffering to its victims who have done nothing to deserve the attacks targeted at them. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our deepest condolences to all victims of terrorism around the world and those of the recent bombings in Bali.

Mr. Chairperson, The South African Government supports the international efforts to combat terrorism, including the need to create a comprehensive legal framework to prevent and punish acts of terrorism in accordance with the principles of international law and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Chairperson

In the past years, during this debate we have taken the floor to share with delegates the steps that South Africa is taking at the domestic front to combat terrorism, allow us to update you on recent domestic developments. The steps that South Africa has taken towards combating terrorism are motivated by our conviction that a strong domestic mechanisms and an international legal framework for co-operation amongst States is what will eventually yield results in combating terrorism. To that end South Africa has recently acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf. South Africa is now a party to 11 of the 12 original counter-terrorism Conventions. The ratification process for the final Convention is underway.

During this year the South African Government also adopted comprehensive counter-terrorism legislation called “The Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorism and Related Activities”. This legislation makes the Republic of South Africa fully compliant with United Nations Counter Terrorism Conventions and Protocols, as well as the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. The legislation creates a general offence of terrorism, and offences relating to terrorist activities, such as recruiting, assistance to commit terrorist activities, and facilitating terrorist activities. It also provides for the specific offences required by the relevant international instruments to be enacted by States, such as terrorist bombings, financing of terrorism, hijacking of airplanes, fixed platforms, and ships, hostage-taking and offences related to protected persons including diplomatic personnel. The legislation equips the law enforcement agencies in the Republic of South Africa to effectively deal with both international and domestic terrorist activities.

Chairperson

Now let me turn to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. Let me start by congratulating the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. Rohan Perera and his bureau for the successful finalisation and adoption of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We warmly welcome the adoption of this Convention and the spirit of compromise that made this achievement possible. The South African Government has signed this Convention during this sixtieth session of the General Assembly. We are confident that the same positive results arrived at with the nuclear terrorism convention shall prevail during the sixtieth session leading to the finalisation and adoption of the comprehensive convention on terrorism.

Chairperson

Please be assured of this delegations full cooperation with you.

I Thank you.