



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

(Check against delivery)

60TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY

MR. ERSİN ERÇİN  
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES a.i OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 108:

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER 2005

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express our satisfaction to see you leading our work and assure you my delegation's full cooperation throughout these meetings.

We would also like to take this opportunity to convey our deepest feelings of sympathy and condolences to the people and the Government of Indonesia. The tragic events in Bali have demonstrated once again the evil character of international terrorism, as well as the importance of the work undertaken here to eliminate this scourge.

Mr. Chairman,

While aligning ourselves fully with the statement made on behalf of the European Union, we would like to highlight certain points on this important issue.

As we have witnessed time and again, terrorism is undoubtedly one of the most serious threats to peace, security and the civilization as a whole. It poses a severe challenge to democracy, civil society and the rule of law. Terrorism is an act undermining human rights and fundamental freedoms, foremost the very essential right to life.

Thus, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism should be condemned as criminal and unjustifiable in any circumstance, regardless of their motivation. No consideration whatsoever can be invoked to justify terrorist acts. There are no 'better' terrorists; there are no worthier causes pursued by terrorists. Therefore, Turkey rejects any kind of cover or pretext used by terrorist organizations to excuse their heinous acts.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey, as a country suffered from terrorism, has long been calling attention to the serious nature of this problem and has been alerting the international community against this scourge. Terrorism is a common problem of the international community and should be dealt with the cooperation of all.

In this respect, Turkey attaches utmost importance to the work being done within the United Nations bodies aimed at eliminating international terrorism.

We highly value the work done by the UN Security Council and its committees and welcome their endeavors to assist States in increasing their capability to combat terrorism. Turkey will continue to support and co-operate with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and other relevant Security Council committees.

We fully adhere to the comprehensive strategy announced by the Secretary-General for combating terrorism and we are ready to work for the realization of this strategy.

We also welcome the annual report of the Secretary General (A/60/228), which contains information submitted by Member States and international organizations, as well as information with regard to the international legal instruments against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The 13 international conventions against terrorism set forth the basic legal framework, which States should refer to while enacting their relevant domestic legislation and while cooperating among themselves against this scourge. It is of crucial importance that more States become parties to these conventions and protocols. Turkey is a party to 12 conventions. We also signed the Nuclear Terrorism Convention on the first day of the opening to signature.

In this respect, we would like to underline the invaluable work being done under the aegis of the General Assembly, particularly within the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly resolution 51/210. Three important conventions, namely the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and lastly the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, have been elaborated and concluded in this forum.

We also look forward to the completion of the discussions on the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism and we would like to express our willingness to work with other delegations to conclude this Convention during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly as indicated in the Outcome Document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005.

With regard to the scope of the convention, Turkey is in favor of a broad scope of application. It is our view that the ever-changing methods, manifestations and targets of terrorism require an inclusive approach. In this context, allow me to underline once again that military and security personnel are also targets for terrorists. Moreover, we think that it is the right approach to choose an operational definition, as is the case within the current text.

Concerning the relationship between this Comprehensive Convention and the previous sectoral conventions, it is our view that the achievements made in the field of combating terrorism, should guide such a relationship. We must give due consideration to the possibilities of reflecting more efficient ways of combating terrorism to the regime established by existing instruments.

Given the complexity of the issues before us, we are all aware of the difficult nature of the task entrusted to this Ad Hoc Committee. However, we believe that a common understanding and determination to fight against terrorism will enable us to make progress and preferably conclude the Convention in this session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.