



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 118 ENTITLED “THE
UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY”**

New York, 26 June 2018

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during this plenary session in which we have adopted, by consensus, resolution A/72/L.62, with which we have renewed the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UN-GCTS).
2. At the outset, allow me to express, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our full recognition and appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Finland and Jordan, as well as to their respective teams, in their capacity as co-facilitators of this sixth review process, for the transparency and inclusiveness with which they conducted the long and complex rounds of negotiations.
3. Also, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the activities of the United Nations System in implementing the UN-GCTS, as contained in document A/72/840, of which we have taken due note.

Mr. President,

4. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is fully committed to the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, considering this scourge as one of the most serious dangers and threats to international peace and security. Let us be emphatic: any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.
5. Terrorist acts constitute one of the most flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life, leading to the lack of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples, and such acts endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security, destabilize legitimately constituted governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States, affect the stability of nations and the very basis of societies, create adverse



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consequences on the economic and social development, and cause the destruction of the physical and economic infrastructure of States.

6. In addition, we cannot overemphasize that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures.
7. Similarly, terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalization of people remaining under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and that the use of State power for the suppression and violence against peoples struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned. In this regard, and in accordance with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant UN resolutions, the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation does not constitute terrorism.

Mr. President,

8. During the XVIII NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Conference, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers reaffirmed and underscored the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled position concerning terrorism, while reiterating the respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter.
9. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement seize this opportunity to note that, while twelve years have passed since the adoption of the UN-GCTS by the General Assembly in 2006, there is still much more to do in our shared duty to fight terrorism, as responsible members of the international community, and to establish a peaceful and prosperous world, in the true interest of both our nations and peoples, particularly at the current juncture when we face, among others, the threat of returning or relocating foreign terrorist fighters, particularly from conflict zones, to their countries of origin or residence, or their deployment to a third country.
10. Therefore, we believe there is a special need to comprehensively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Experience tells us that terrorist groups are nourished, among others, by despair, injustice, frustration, lack of opportunities, and the denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms, to promote their criminal agenda, which is based on hatred, intolerance, sectarianism and extremism. Poverty, social and economic inequalities, political, ethnic and religious intolerance and/or conflicts, as well



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as the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, and violations to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of peoples and nations, *inter alia*, are also part of the so-called push drivers of terrorism. These must be addressed accordingly if we truly want to eliminate the scourge of terrorism not only in the short but in the long run.

11. Consequently, we call for a transparent, comprehensive and balanced implementation of the UN-GCTS and for the enhanced engagement of all States in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), while expressing our support to any initiatives aimed at enhancing the effective and full implementation of the Strategy.
12. In addition, while highlighting the contribution of regional and sub-regional initiatives, we reaffirm the importance of the consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism by the General Assembly, as the principal deliberative organ of the United Nations having competence to do so.

Mr. President,

13. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) expresses its resolve to take speedy and effective measures to eliminate international terrorism, and, in this context, urges all States, consistent with the UN Charter, to fulfill their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law in combating terrorism, including by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; by preventing the organization, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territories or by organizations based in their territories; by refraining from organizing, instigating, assisting, financing or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States; by refraining from encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts; by refraining from allowing the use of their territories for planning, training or financing for such acts; or by refraining from supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States.
14. Yet, we call upon all States to, while taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge, respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms in countering terrorism, and to reaffirm their commitment in this respect to prevent human rights violations, consistent with the rule of law and their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.



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15. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement categorically condemn any form of, and refrain from extending, political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism, and in this context, urge all States, consistent with the UN Charter and in fulfilling their obligations under international law, to ensure that refugee status or any other legal status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts and that claims of political motivation by them are not recognized as grounds for refusing requests for their extradition.

Mr. President,

16. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is of the view that the fight against terrorism must take place within a strengthened international cooperation, in accordance with existing international and regional legal instruments, as well as relevant UN resolutions, while fully respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. In this regard, the validity of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the need to uphold and respect the norms of international law cannot be overemphasized. In our view, multilateral cooperation, under the UN auspices, is undoubtedly the most effective means to combat international terrorism.
17. Therefore, the Member States of the Movement call upon all States to both observe and implement the provisions of all international conventions, as well as regional and bilateral instruments relating to terrorism to which their countries are party and relevant UN resolutions, while urging all States, which have not yet done so, to consider to ratify or accede to international and UN conventions and protocols relating to combating terrorism.
18. We further urge all States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the UN Charter, to deny safe haven and bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts, while stressing the importance of holding accountable those responsible of or involved in the execution or the facilitation of terrorist activities.
19. In addition, the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern that must be fought with determination. In this regard, we reiterate the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to criminalize the willful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts. Similarly, we note the increasing and recognized potential links between transnational organized crime and the financing of



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terrorism, including money laundering, and therefore stress the need for promoting cooperation and coordinating efforts in fighting the scourge of these two criminal activities.

Mr. President,

20. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) stresses that it is essential to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, and that, in this regard, the international community should consider developing an accurate understanding of how terrorists motivate others to commit terrorist acts or recruit them, and develop the most effective means to counter terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including through the Internet, in compliance with applicable international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.
21. Therefore, the Member States of the Movement also seize this opportunity to stress the importance of the preventive approach in this important fight. They highlight the importance of not only addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism but also to consider developing effective and innovative initiatives aimed at undermining the clear strategy of these extremist groups and ideologies that promote violence and intolerance, with a view to counteract terrorist narratives and to generate critical thinking in our societies, which would ultimately serve the purpose of preventing radicalization, recruitment and mobilization of resources, including through the inappropriate use of information and communication technologies.
22. Moreover, we look forward to the contributions of the United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) in bringing more coherence and effectiveness to the activities carried by the United Nations on the counter-terrorism sphere, including in relation to the assistance it can provide in addressing, upon requests of Member States, capacity-building needs, while underscoring that such assistance must be tailored to the specific needs and realities of the concerned State, and that it shall take into account the centrality of national ownership.
23. To conclude, while expressing their full solidarity with those countries that have most recently suffered from acts of terrorism, the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement reiterate the importance of the conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism, which would complement the set of existing legal instruments in this field. Let us therefore work together, hand in hand, and in a decisive and coordinated manner, to eliminate this reprehensible scourge, including through the full and effective implementation of the UN-GCTS.

I thank you, Mr. President.