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Chair: Ms. Pelkiö (Vice-Chair) (Czechia)

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In the absence of Mr. Skoknic Tapia (Chile), Ms. Pelkiö (Czechia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 114: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/75/176)

1. **Mr. Moncada** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomever and for whatever purposes committed, and reaffirmed that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, civilization or ethnic group. Terrorism was one of the greatest threats to international peace and security and undermined the territorial integrity and political unity of States. It also contributed to the destabilization of legitimate Governments, severely impeding the economic and social development of peoples.

2. His country had been a victim of international terrorism in recent years, but the perpetrators had attempted to hide the seriousness of the attacks from the international community in an effort to misinform the international public. For example, the unilateral coercive measures imposed illegally on the Venezuelan people by the Government of the United States of America were part of a systematic policy of economic terrorism that had been implemented in a calculated and deliberate attempt to cause as much pain and suffering as possible. The failed attempts to assassinate President Nicolás Maduro in 2018 and 2020; the repeated attacks on his country's essential infrastructure, including the national electricity system; the attacks on the facilities of the National Electoral Council in an effort to prevent the Venezuelan people from exercising their right to vote in the December 2020 elections; and the entry of armed terrorist groups into the country with the stated objective of assassinating specific high-level government officials, including the President, with a view to establishing a colonial regime were all terrorist acts.

3. His Government condemned the United States Government, which was the main threat to peace and security in his country. It also condemned the Government of Colombia for providing support to the United States and allowing it to use Colombian territory to organize, train and protect terrorists and mercenaries who were attempting to spread chaos and violence in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

4. There should be no double standards in efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism. There was no such thing as "good" or "bad" terrorists. Terrorism could

not be justified on any grounds, and must certainly not be used to further the political or colonial ambitions of Governments that were violating their international obligations. The use of terrorism or violence to promote the overthrow of legitimate Governments was unacceptable. Joint efforts to combat terrorism should not be weaponized for political purposes. Furthermore, extraordinary circumstances requiring international solidarity and the full attention of national authorities, such as the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, should not be used as cover to carry out terrorist acts.

5. His Government called for the full and effective implementation of the relevant norms of international law on combating terrorism, including Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and for the full and non-selective implementation of other relevant international instruments and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in order to make progress towards achieving the objective that should unite all States: global peace and a world free of terrorism. All States must cooperate to eliminate terrorism and to combat the hate speech, intolerance and supremacist ideologies that fostered it.

6. **Ms. Lee Hyunseung** (Republic of Korea) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; terrorism could not be tolerated or justified under any circumstances. International cooperation, guided by the rule of law, was vital in efforts to combat terrorism, since terrorism could not be contained within specific borders or boundaries. Her Government had been making efforts to implement all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the national, regional and global levels. It was also committed to implementing the relevant United Nations resolutions and 15 multilateral instruments on counter-terrorism and transnational crime to which it was a party. The judicial authorities of the Republic of Korea had prosecuted several individuals who had transferred funds to terrorist groups, while upholding the rights to due process and a fair trial. Her Government supported the strengthening of the global counter-terrorism legal framework and the efforts of the Committee to finalize a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

7. Information-sharing and capacity-building would empower States to combat threats such as the use of new technologies to recruit terrorists or commit, incite, fund or plan attacks. Her country participated in various global efforts to address new threats, including the reviews of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and initiatives of the Financial Action Task Force. As part of its effort to close legislative gaps concerning new technologies, it had extended the scope of its

anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism law to cover virtual assets.

8. The fragility and inequalities caused by COVID-19 highlighted the importance of taking a holistic and long-term approach to counter-terrorism. Social grievances resulting from the effects of the pandemic could drive people into isolation and increase the likelihood of their being drawn to violent extremism. The recent increase in violence, prejudice against minorities, hate speech and discrimination demonstrated that the pandemic was not just a public health crisis but also a socioeconomic one. Particular attention must be given to addressing the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to enhancing the resilience and inclusiveness of societies. Convinced that sport was an effective means of preventing violent extremism, her Government had made a voluntary contribution to the Office of Counter-Terrorism's Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism.

9. **Mr. Aldoseri** (Bahrain) said that the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence played a prominent role in spreading a culture of peace and interfaith dialogue as a bulwark against narratives conducive to violent extremism and terrorism. Efforts to combat terrorism and extremism could be fruitful only if combined with cooperation based on a comprehensive, multidimensional approach. His Government therefore supported the Secretary-General's new initiatives to combat violence based on religion, including the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites.

10. His Government had established a committee to combat extremism, terrorism, the financing of terrorism and money-laundering, as well as a committee to follow up on its commitments under all Security Council resolutions, such as the establishment of policies to prohibit and counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In conjunction with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, it had held a virtual workshop in August 2020 to strengthen the capacity to protect the non-profit sector from exploitation by terrorists.

11. **Ms. Nguyen Quyen Thi Hong** (Viet Nam) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had revealed fragilities in the world, such as poverty, discrimination, hatred, xenophobia, inequality and injustice, that fostered the conditions conducive to violent extremism and terrorism. The international community must redouble its efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, and

increase resilience to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. International cooperation should be strengthened by increasing synergies within the United Nations system and enhancing the role of regional and subregional organizations, local communities and other relevant stakeholders. The international community must continue to prioritize the provision of technical and capacity-building assistance to enable States to detect terrorists, interdict their travel and bring them to justice. All counter-terrorism measures must be in full compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations established under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

12. Since the effects of COVID-19 would continue to test the resilience of societies in the coming years, it was crucial to maintain a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism that involved eradicating its root causes, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promoting national development and social justice.

13. As part of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Viet Nam had become a party to 15 universal treaties pertaining to counter-terrorism and transnational crime and had concluded a number of bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition. It had also worked closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on capacity-building and experience-sharing projects, in particular in relation to terrorist threats to maritime security and threats associated with foreign terrorist fighters. Her Government was committed to aligning its domestic laws with its international commitments. The perpetration and financing of terrorist acts, including by legal persons, were now crimes under the Vietnamese Penal Code. Collective efforts to combat terrorism should continue to be guided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

14. **Ms. Mudallali** (Lebanon) said that efforts must be made to address poverty, inequality and injustice, as the economic and social difficulties that many people, especially young people, were experiencing could increase the risk of their being radicalized or drawn into extremism. The economic, financial and social crisis that had been unfolding in Lebanon as a result of COVID-19 had been exacerbated by the explosion at the port of Beirut in August 2020. Since then, rates of unemployment, poverty and extreme poverty had spiked. Moreover, lockdown measures taken to combat COVID-19 had resulted in young people spending more time unsupervised on the Internet, increasing their risk

of exposure to violent extremist ideologies. Her Government would require support from its partners to foster economic development, empower young people and women, and promote human rights, the rule of law and good governance.

15. There was a constant threat of terrorist attacks in Lebanon. Four Lebanese soldiers had recently been killed in an operation to disrupt a terrorist cell linked to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Her Government was developing a national counter-terrorism strategy, with support from the European Union, which would be focused on prevention, protection, security and response. In August 2020, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon had convicted the persons behind the attack that had killed former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and a number of innocent civilians in 2005. Her Government hoped that the ruling would help end impunity and bring long overdue relief to the victims' families.

16. Her Government firmly condemned terrorism, which should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group and should not be conflated with the exercise of the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation. Lebanon attached great importance to its international counter-terrorism obligations and to all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Lebanon looked forward to the convening of the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in 2021.

17. **Mr. Arriola Ramírez** (Paraguay) said that terrorism was a serious threat to the stability of entire regions and to global security, and caused physical and psychological trauma worldwide. All terrorist acts were unjustifiable and criminal. Paraguay reaffirmed its commitment to combating the scourge in all its forms and manifestations, while strictly adhering to international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations should play a central role in international efforts to combat terrorism, since enhanced international cooperation was the only way to successfully address the threat.

18. Paraguay was a party to 16 international counter-terrorism instruments and had a robust legislative and institutional framework for combating terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. It welcomed the efforts of regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, but encouraged them to further enhance cooperation in that regard. The General Assembly should continue to be the primary forum to consider questions related to terrorism in all its forms

and manifestations and to coordinate the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism, although regional and subregional organizations and agreements also made an important contribution.

19. Paraguay was continuing to work domestically and inter-institutionally to improve its normative and institutional framework for combating terrorism and protecting human rights and to incorporate the most relevant international instruments on the subject into its legal order. It called for all six official languages of the United Nations to be used in all the Organization's counter-terrorism initiatives, in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the related work of national institutions and focal points.

20. **Ms. Syrota** (Ukraine) said that while the international community was focusing on countering emerging challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, terrorists were adapting their methods to new realities. A resolute commitment and practical action were needed to address the rampant threats associated with terrorism, including State-sponsored terrorism.

21. As part of its ongoing aggression against Ukraine, the Russian Federation was providing funds, weapons and training to illegal terrorist armed groups in Ukraine; manipulating information, at times for the purposes of incitement to terrorism; and carrying out cyberattacks on critical infrastructure and government agencies. It was also discrediting international counter-terrorism efforts by making false accusations against innocent people and illegally convicting them of terrorist offences. The Russian Federation had adopted an anti-extremism law and amended its Criminal Code in order to crack down on dissent, including by stiffening sentences for those who spoke out against the illegal occupation. Such legislative measures were essentially aimed at political and human rights activists, civil society, journalists and religious minorities.

22. Like terrorist groups, State sponsors of terrorism manipulated facts, showed no respect for international law and were responsible for attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure. Such actions were legally, morally and ethically unacceptable. Impunity for State sponsors of terrorism was detrimental to global counter-terrorism efforts. Without a strong and united response, the situation would further deteriorate, creating new crises and destroying the rules-based international order. States had a collective responsibility to ensure that all perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of terrorism were brought to justice.

23. **Mr. Taufan** (Indonesia) said that the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic had increased the vulnerability of societies to new terrorist threats, such

as cyberattacks, bioterrorism and the misuse of digital technology. Cooperation to support victims and survivors of terrorism was more crucial than ever. His Government had adopted regulations on the prevention of terrorism and the provision of compensation, restitution and assistance to witnesses and victims. It was working more closely with religious leaders, civil society organizations, young people, victims of terrorism and academics and was also strengthening its participation in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums to that end.

24. The prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders should be integral elements of a comprehensive approach to addressing terrorism. It was unfortunate that the draft Security Council resolution on that topic proposed by his delegation in August 2020 had been vetoed by a permanent member of the Council, even though it had received overwhelming support from the Council as a whole. His Government supported the statement of the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the treatment of children recruited by or associated with terrorist groups, in which the ASEAN countries acknowledged the possibility of using non-judicial measures as alternatives to prosecution and detention for such children.

25. His Government considered that young people should be at the centre of efforts to prevent violent extremism and had accordingly developed a programme to help them become ambassadors for peace in Indonesia and the region. It stood ready to cooperate in the collective endeavour of eliminating international terrorism, including by sharing its best practices.

26. **Ms. Ighil** (Algeria) said that no country was immune to the global threat of terrorism. Against the backdrop of COVID-19, global and regional efforts to combat such emerging issues as the spread of terrorist propaganda online, the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters and the financing of terrorism must be intensified. Her delegation welcomed the strengthening of Secretariat action in that regard and the cooperation between the members of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The General Assembly should finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In particular, States should agree on an accurate definition of terrorism in accordance with the Charter and international law and avoid confusion between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.

27. The prevention and combating of terrorism required multifaceted cooperation, encompassing not only repressive measures but also a coherent political strategy. Algeria maintained a high level of vigilance in the fight against terrorism and radicalization. It had implemented policies, strategies and development programmes to counter exclusion, marginalization and social injustice and promote democracy, human rights, good governance and peaceful coexistence.

28. Algeria had developed strong ties with its neighbouring countries in key areas related to the fight against terrorism. In the Sahel region, the current context required both coordination and strengthening of the capacities of the countries of the region on the basis of national ownership. Her Government was involved in various collective security initiatives and arrangements under the auspices of the African Union. Algiers was host to the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL) and the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, which both played important roles in combating terrorism, organized transnational crime and cybercrime in Africa. Algeria also worked closely with such entities as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, particularly in its capacity as Co-Chair of the Forum's working group on capacity-building in the West Africa region, and remained committed to collective efforts at all levels to eliminate terrorism and violent extremism.

29. **Mr. Irimia Arosemena** (Panama) said that his country strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Terrorist acts were serious violations of international law that undermined basic human rights and posed a risk to international peace and security. A multilateral approach would be the only way to counter terrorism effectively while ensuring strict adherence to human rights, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the rule of law. States should focus in particular on identifying and dismantling the formal and informal channels used for the financing of terrorism. His Government was investing in capacity-building to better protect its borders and its financial and logistical systems from terrorists.

30. Panama was a party to 18 universal and regional counter-terrorism instruments. It was committed to the full implementation of measures mandated under Security Council resolution [1267 \(1999\)](#) and the subsequent resolutions, including asset freezes, travel bans and arms embargoes. His Government also supported the measures taken by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States to build the counter-terrorism

capacities of States. It would continue to engage in mutual assistance, cooperation and the exchange of information with other States on law enforcement and judicial processes.

31. The international community should continue to strengthen measures to prevent the financial and economic sectors from being used to finance terrorism. Given the increased amount of time that people were spending on social media as a result of lockdown measures taken to address COVID-19, increased efforts should be made to counteract or limit the reach of terrorist propaganda online, in order to prevent violent extremism, radicalization, self-radicalization and recruitment, in accordance with the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Panama called on all States to continue to combat terrorism, as part of their commitment to international peace and security.

32. **Ms. Margaryan** (Armenia) said that the international community must stand united against the global scourge of terrorism. To that end, her Government had taken practical measures to improve border security, combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions. Armenia participated actively in the counter-terrorism activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Council of Europe. Her delegation supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to strengthen system-wide coordination and coherence and had strengthened its partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

33. The COVID-19 pandemic had provided new opportunities for terrorists to exploit divisions, conflicts and other vulnerabilities, in particular in societies in which radicalization stemmed from identity-based hatred and intolerance cultivated by the national authorities. Azerbaijan, with the support and encouragement of Turkey, was currently waging a large-scale campaign of aggression against Armenia, with a clear intent to commit genocide. The current hostilities were the most intense and destructive the region had experienced since the 1990s. Thousands of civilians and the Armenian cultural heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh were facing an existential threat, as indiscriminate attacks involving the use of heavy artillery, drones and even prohibited weapons were being carried out in flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law. The scope and nature of the attacks, as well as the available evidence, unequivocally indicated that the aggression had been planned well in advance.

34. In recent weeks, the international media had reported extensively on the deployment by Turkey of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries from Syrian territories currently under Turkish control to Nagorno-Karabakh. Those reports had been confirmed by high-level officials of several States. Azerbaijan and Turkey bore direct responsibility and legal liability for the crime of aggression and for sponsoring the flow of international terrorists to the region, in violation of Security Council resolutions. Her Government condemned in the strongest terms all attempts to turn the conflict zone into a launch pad for international terrorism.

35. **Ms. Raz** (Afghanistan) said that the serious threat that terrorism posed to international peace and security had been exacerbated by COVID-19. Afghanistan was among the countries most affected by international terrorism, which over the past year had caused many casualties, mainly among innocent civilians, in the country. Her Government remained committed to countering terrorism without distinction, in all its forms and manifestations. Over the past year, its defence and security forces, in close coordination with international allies, had inflicted heavy losses on terrorist groups, including Al-Qaida and ISIL-Khorasan Province, and had dismantled the networks and bases of those groups in Afghanistan.

36. Since no country could defeat terrorism on its own, her Government participated actively in bilateral and multilateral mechanisms and processes such as the Afghan-led Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process. Her delegation supported the role of the United Nations in facilitating a unified global response to terrorism. Joint efforts to conclude a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be accelerated. All Member States must properly enforce Security Council sanctions regimes, refrain from giving material or moral support or a safe haven to terrorists. Concerted efforts should be made to address the root causes of terrorism, including the propagation of terrorist narratives; eliminate the sources of funding for terrorists; and address the interlinkages between terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime.

37. As Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Afghanistan continued to advocate the promotion and protection of the human rights of victims and survivors of terrorism. It was committed to eradicating the threat of terrorism from its soil, which would contribute to the security and stability of the wider region and the world.

38. **Mr. Shabaltas** (Russian Federation) said that it was regrettable that the Committee had been unable to make tangible progress towards developing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism or a related resolution. The Committee should focus on strengthening judicial cooperation mechanisms to ensure that terrorists did not escape punishment, and on addressing unresolved challenges relating to the repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and members of their families, in particular foreign fighters from Syria and Iraq. States should not pin the responsibility for resolving such matters on victimized States, illegal quasi-governmental structures or hybrid courts. They should also comply fully with their international obligations in that regard, including by upholding the principle of *aut dedere aut judicare*. States should make the fullest possible use of existing international instruments on mutual legal assistance and extradition or, in the absence of such instruments, cooperate on the basis of the principle of reciprocity.

39. Although there was a growing interest among certain States in securing the evidence of crimes committed during armed conflicts, there was no basis for promoting the use of armed forces to do so. The presence of the armed forces of one State in the territory of another State was strictly regulated by international legal norms, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of State sovereignty and territorial integrity. Unless the receiving State consented to the presence of another State's military personnel in its territory, an international legal mandate based on a decision of the Security Council was required. Furthermore, not all military personnel could be granted the power to collect, process and transfer evidence to judicial authorities. Such duties must be mandated and be performed in full compliance with domestic law. No references to so-called military evidence should be included in counter-terrorism resolutions of the General Assembly, unless those aspects were taken into consideration.

40. Although the Russian Federation had repeatedly pointed out the obvious political and legal flaws in the concept of countering violent extremism, those championing the concept had continued to foist their views regarding the origins and prevention of extremism on others without ever addressing those concerns. The existing legal counter-terrorism regime was being methodically supplanted by mysterious rules developed unilaterally.

41. His Government shared wholeheartedly the concerns about the growing popularity of extreme-right movements, including those inspired by Nazi ideology. Any joint efforts within the General Assembly to

address the swell of racially and ethnically motivated hatred should be guided by existing General Assembly resolutions, including those on combating the glorification of Nazism. The coordinating role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism matters could not be strengthened without the support of regional bodies, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

42. It was regrettable that certain delegations had opportunistically used the Committee's debate on counter-terrorism issues for political ends. His delegation rejected the groundless accusations directed at the Russian Federation, which were founded on disinformation and were wholly unrelated to the topic at hand.

43. **Mr. Nyan Lin Aung** (Myanmar) said that the increased amounts of time people around the world, including students, were spending online as a result of COVID-19 was providing terrorists with more opportunities to spread their narratives and propaganda. His Government considered that the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in international efforts to combat terrorism and remained committed to the implementation of the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

44. Myanmar was a party to 15 international counter-terrorism instruments, including the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, and a member of the Border Liaison Office network. His Government worked closely with regional partners by sharing information and participating in joint activities to combat transborder terrorism. In 2017, Myanmar had initiated and signed a memorandum of understanding on security dialogue and cooperation and a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a border liaison office with Bangladesh. At the national level, his Government had established 130 interfaith groups across the country as part of its strategy to prevent violent extremism through the promotion of tolerance and interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

45. The growing security threats posed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the Arakan Army had been a major impediment to the restoration of peace, harmony and stability in Rakhine State and the repatriation of displaced persons from refugee camps in Bangladesh. The Arakan Army, which had been committing terrorist acts since January 2019, had been declared a terrorist group by his Government in March 2020. In early 2020, ARSA, which had carried out unprovoked attacks on security posts in Myanmar in

2016 and 2017, had begun to step up its operations in Rakhine State once again. However, ARSA had never had a permanent headquarters in the territory of Myanmar; the group was based outside the country. It radicalized and trained nationals of Myanmar from outside the country, and usually planned its attacks through audio and video messages. Active bilateral and regional cooperation would be the most effective means of combating the group's terrorist activities. It had been reported by foreign media that Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh was providing training to some members of ARSA.

46. His Government was committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No terrorist activities or support for such activities, for whatever purposes and in whatever context committed, could be justified or condoned as legitimate acts. No political, diplomatic, moral or material support should be given to terrorism or violent extremism. Thus, no explicit or implicit support, including moral support, should be given to ARSA or the Arakan Army. Myanmar looked forward to enhancing cooperation with international and regional institutions, including the United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, to combat terrorism. His delegation's full statement would be made available in the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations*.

47. **Mr. Arrocha Olabuenaga** (Mexico) said that his Government condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Such crimes should be addressed in a comprehensive manner and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. His delegation supported the efforts of the United Nations to promote a multilateral approach to combating terrorism but considered that much more needed to be done to effectively prevent terrorism.

48. The conditions created by COVID-19 had made it easier for terrorists to radicalize others. They were using information technology to spread their message widely and taking advantage of people's anxiety and confusion. Despite the challenges, it was important to bear in mind that efforts to combat terrorism must never hinder the provision of humanitarian assistance.

49. His Government was particularly concerned about the actions that white supremacist groups were using to promote their ideologies. The proliferation of hate speech combined with easy access to firearms had led to tragic attacks. Victims of terrorism must be given quick access to justice and psychological services and must be treated with dignity and respect. Their important role in combating extremist narratives should be recognized.

His Government welcomed the decision to convene the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

50. Effective use must be made of the multilateral counter-terrorism instruments and mechanisms in force. The abusive invocation of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in the context of counter-terrorism efforts continued to give cause for concern. Efforts to address terrorism must be in full compliance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

51. **Mr. Awassam** (Nigeria) said that terrorist acts were insidious and usually destabilized the structures of governance, with adverse effects on development; hence there was a need to develop an inclusive, collaborative approach to deterring and annihilating terrorism, particularly in the light of the increasing sophistication and frequency of terrorist attacks around the world.

52. His Government was working to prohibit, prevent and combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism at the national and regional levels through domestic legislation and strong cooperation with neighbouring countries and the United Nations. Nigeria was no stranger to the activities of terrorists, in particular Boko Haram. His Government had curtailed that group's heinous atrocities through a national counter-terrorism strategy and was keeping it under continuous surveillance. Government troops had taken possession of the territories formerly controlled by Boko Haram, and a rehabilitation and resettlement programme had been set up for victims who had been held in captivity. Since 2017, the Government had been prosecuting Boko Haram suspects kept in detention centres across the country. Hundreds of suspects had been convicted and imprisoned and many more had been released for deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration. The counter-terrorism strategy of Nigeria was firmly anchored in respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. Under the strategy, religious leaders were encouraged to use their places of worship to enlighten their followers about extremism and intolerance.

53. The war against terrorism in all its manifestations could only be won through the resolve of all States Members of the United Nations to work together and to ensure full compliance with all United Nations resolutions and conventions against terrorism and its financing, as well as with other regional instruments. Nigeria had recently worked with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre on a project to train law enforcement officials in human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism. He reaffirmed his

Government's commitment to work closely with all United Nations counter-terrorism entities, consistent with its faith in the need for a collective fight against terrorism.

54. **Ms. Hackman** (Ghana) said that as the world was waging battle against COVID-19, it must not underestimate the serious threat still posed by terrorism. The wide-ranging effects of the pandemic could exacerbate grievances, undermine social cohesion and fuel conflict, thereby creating conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and terrorism. In some parts of the world, ISIL and Al-Qaida had adapted their methods to the pandemic situation and could ramp up attacks through their networks. Recent cyberattacks against government health-care facilities gave cause for concern. Her Government called on the international community to address those threats in a spirit of multilateralism.

55. Her Government noted with concern that States were reallocating funds earmarked for counter-terrorism efforts to combat the pandemic, and foreign armed forces involved in operations to counter ISIL and Al-Qaida were withdrawing or planning to withdraw, thereby increasing the risk of terrorist attacks, and subsequent humanitarian crises, in vulnerable States. A global effort should be made to put in place measures to counter terrorism in those countries for the duration of the pandemic. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire to combat the pandemic, alleviate human suffering and break the cycle that allowed terrorism to thrive.

56. **Ms. Villalobos Brenes** (Costa Rica) said that the first step towards eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be to refuse to tolerate any terrorist practices, acts or groups. Those who sought to gain power by spreading terror showed a total disregard for the fundamental freedoms and human rights of others. Terrorist acts could not be justified under any circumstances and the perpetrators must be prosecuted or extradited.

57. While terrorism could stem from national situations, it did not respect borders and should be addressed through the collective implementation of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. In accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it was crucial to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; take measures to prevent and combat terrorism; and build the capacities of States to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard.

58. At the national level, her Government had taken legislative measures to strengthen its capacity to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and to protect victims. A programme to train judges and other judicial officials in the detection of terrorism linked to cybercrime, money-laundering and human trafficking was under way. Efforts were also being made to improve the processing and analysis of data and the detection of links between networks and organizations.

59. Cooperation was vital in order to prevent the imposition and spread of extremist ideologies or religious beliefs and irrational hatred. The exchange of relevant information should be systematized at all levels, through bilateral agreements, subregional and regional organizations, and the United Nations system. Technological tools used for the tracking of terrorists and foreign fighters should be available to all countries. International law, human rights, international humanitarian law and international refugee law must be respected when using such tools. Insofar as their domestic laws permitted, countries should endeavour to establish public-private partnerships to improve access to technological advances. Lastly, the process leading to the conclusion of a convention on international terrorism should be initiated.

60. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that terrorism and related criminal activities continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, human rights and fundamental freedoms, political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and social and economic development. Comprehensive approaches implemented through coordinated international action were needed to address the increase in terrorist acts motivated by intolerance, extremism and racist ideologies.

61. Armed conflict, and in particular foreign military occupation, created opportunities for terrorists. Since the end of the 1980s, as a means of realizing groundless and unlawful territorial claims and as a method of warfare, Armenia and various Armenian terrorist organizations had perpetrated repeated attacks against Azerbaijan, claiming thousands of lives. The occupying forces of the puppet regime set up by Armenia in the occupied territories of his country had close links to international terrorism and organized crime. His Government resolutely rejected the allegations by Armenia that Azerbaijan and Turkey were responsible for terrorist activities in those territories. Armenia was fabricating facts in an attempt to mislead the international community, conceal its crimes and justify its heavy losses on the battlefield.

62. The Armenian Government had a long track record of supporting terrorism. Evidence collected before and during the current hostilities clearly showed that Armenia was actively recruiting foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries to participate in violent attacks against Azerbaijan and its civilian population. Thousands of terrorists and mercenaries from Europe and the Middle East had joined the Armenian forces in the conflict zone or were preparing for deployment. Moreover, Armenian diaspora organizations presenting themselves as charitable and non-governmental organizations were providing financial and other material support for terrorism and aggression in Azerbaijan.

63. The actions of Armenia, which clearly contravened international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, entailed that State's responsibility and the individual criminal liability of the persons involved. It was critical for States to take urgent measures to prevent their territories from being used to support or finance terrorism and related activities; suppress the mobilization of fighters; and prosecute people travelling or attempting to travel abroad for terrorist purposes.

64. In addition to measures that States were entitled to take at the national level to assert jurisdiction over crimes perpetrated by their nationals overseas, international cooperation in criminal matters, including through mutual legal assistance, was the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related offences. Corporate liability and criminal responsibility must function in tandem to ensure that those who violated international law were prosecuted. His delegation called for the enhancement and expansion of individual and collective counter-terrorism measures.

65. **Mr. Altarsha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that much of the information provided by Member States in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/75/156) focused on actions taken to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from returning to their home countries, their countries of residence or third States. Over the previous nine years, the Syrian Arab Republic had been fighting a war against terrorism on behalf of the entire world. Tens of thousands of people had died, millions of Syrians had been displaced, and the region and the world had been destabilized. Although numerous Governments had turned a blind eye, the Syrian Government and people had long been aware of the threat posed by *takfirist* extremism, and States that continued to respect the Charter of the United Nations and international law had helped to stem the tide.

66. Nevertheless, other States, particularly States members of the European Union, continued to opt for petty, self-interested solutions based on the same mentality that had initially given rise to the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. By unilaterally revoking the nationality or residence permits of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members, they sought to prevent their return and leave the threat hanging over the Syrian people. Large numbers of such individuals were still in Syria, in camps controlled by separatist armed groups loyal to the American occupation forces. In the camps, men, women and young people who had espoused terrorism were raising a new generation of extremists. They could not be portrayed as victims of terrorism or violent extremism.

67. The Syrian Arab Republic would never desist from its obligation to prosecute, hold accountable and repatriate those people. It participated in United Nations efforts to combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism, and supported the principles of international humanitarian law and Security Council resolutions. His delegation urged all States to comply with the Madrid Guiding Principles and the 2018 addendum thereto. It hoped that the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would make it possible to respond to the current challenges, effectively address the responsibility of Governments to repatriate foreign terrorist fighters and their family members, and avoid the political pressures that all too often resulted in an artificial consensus which failed to reflect the will of the international community or the resolve of the United Nations to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

68. **Ms. Fink** (United Kingdom) said that while it was too early to know the long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of terrorism, her Government was concerned that terrorists would be able to take advantage of the situation to recruit followers and disseminate their dangerous narratives through the Internet. Preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes therefore continued to be a key priority for her Government, alongside efforts to ensure good governance, promote the rule of law and reduce poverty. While ISIL had lost territory, it was still promoting its ideology and objectives through its network and affiliates around the world. Al-Qaida also continued to pose a threat. Meanwhile, the rise in right-wing extremism and terrorism provided further proof that terrorism was not associated with any particular identity, religion or nationality. Her Government had already proscribed a number of organizations that promoted extreme right-wing ideologies.

69. The United Kingdom welcomed the focus on the protection of principled humanitarian action in Security Council resolutions [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#). It would continue to work with its partners to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were implemented in accordance with international law and the counter-terrorism framework of the Security Council. Respect for human rights and effective counter-terrorism measures were not mutually exclusive; indeed, respect for human rights and the integration of gender considerations were vital for credible, sustainable and effective responses to the threat of terrorism, while gross violations of human rights could contribute to the development of grievances and conditions conducive to terrorism. Gender-based stereotypes must be challenged, and women must be able to participate meaningfully at all stages of counter-terrorism efforts.

70. The Counter-Terrorism Committee had conducted its second assessment visit to the United Kingdom in October 2019. The United Kingdom welcomed opportunities to learn from and work with other States to improve responses to the terrorist threat and encouraged other States to make use of the opportunity provided by Counter-Terrorism Committee visits to share their experiences and good practices. Her delegation also urged all States to comply with their aviation security obligations and work towards implementing the Global Aviation Security Plan. The United Kingdom looked forward to working with the United Nations, other Member States and civil society to ensure that the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2021 helped to prepare the international community to collectively combat the evolving threat of terrorism.

71. **Mr. Takht Ravanchi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism and economic and medical terrorism in the form of unilateral coercive measures. The only way to eradicate terrorism was through a multilateral approach involving close cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. Action to combat terrorism must be in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, well-established international humanitarian law and human rights law, and the principles of the independence and sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the domestic affairs of States.

72. Unilateral coercive measures, which claimed countless innocent lives and undermined the stability and security of States, hampered the collective response to terrorism and international cooperation. The imposition by the United States of laws and regulations

with extraterritorial effects on the Islamic Republic of Iran and other States was tantamount to terrorism. It had severely worsened health conditions in those countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those measures violated the right to peace, the right to development, the right to health and the right to life, and therefore fell within the scope of article 2 of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, in which terrorism was described as causing death with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a Government or international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.

73. In accordance with its corrupt policy of promoting regime change in other States, the Government of the United States had deliberately designed its “maximum pressure” strategy to cause pain and suffering among the Iranian population and stir up social unrest, making it guilty of terrorist acts, including acts of economic terrorism. The brutal and cowardly assassination by the United States of Major-General Qasem Soleimani, a champion of counter-terrorism efforts in the region, was another clear example of State terrorism committed by the United States in gross violation of the fundamental principles of international law. That act, which had been a boon to ISIL and other terrorist groups in the region, entailed the criminal responsibility of the perpetrators.

74. Despite the challenges it faced, the Islamic Republic of Iran had been at the forefront of efforts to eliminate ISIL and other designated terrorist groups that had been supported by other States in the region and beyond. The unilateral imposition of illegal coercive measures would not affect the unwavering resolve of his Government to rid the world of terror.

75. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism and terrorism linked to covert operations of non-state actors, as well as all attempts to bring about regime change by destabilizing countries or carrying out coups d'état. Respectful international cooperation and solidarity, within the limits permitted by each country's domestic law, were crucial to combating terrorism.

76. Nicaragua, which had been a victim of terrorism, had never and would never permit its territory to be used for the planning, financing or perpetration of terrorist acts against any State. It was making a significant contribution to stability, peace and security in its region, and had helped contain the spread of terrorism through its family- and community-based approach. His Government called on the international community to support and cooperate closely with Central American countries in their efforts to combat drug trafficking and

organized crime in the region, particularly along the drug transit route from Colombia to the United States. His delegation strongly supported the elaboration of an international convention on terrorism and urged Member States to be flexible in order to achieve that goal.

77. The international community must respond to the economic and social impact of COVID-19 by demonstrating the political will to bring about a more humane world that fostered the well-being and happiness of all people, including the poorest and most vulnerable. The imposition of unilateral coercive measures against States was an illegal attack on the right to development and the human rights of the peoples affected and, in the midst of a pandemic, was tantamount to a crime against humanity. His delegation therefore urged the international community to ensure that such illegal coercive measures were lifted urgently and to focus on combating terrorism, State terrorism and aggression, the real threats to international peace and security.

78. **Mr. Almowaizri** (Kuwait) said that his country condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations, whatever their justification. Terrorism should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Governments must cooperate in the international counter-terrorism effort and aim to establish measures that promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights; combat impunity; address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty; foster sustainable development, good governance and peaceful coexistence; and ensure respect for religious symbols and holy sites.

79. Although COVID-19 had reduced the threat of terrorism over the short term, its longer-term socioeconomic repercussions risked creating conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism. In tackling the pandemic, the international community should therefore place a greater emphasis on the socioeconomic dimensions of the crisis.

80. At the domestic level, his Government had organized several workshops on combating the financing of terrorism, the role of society in rehabilitating foreign fighters, raising awareness among young people, and the role of the family in confronting violence and extremism. The United Nations and its subsidiary bodies had an important role to play in combating terrorism; ultimately, the problem could be eradicated only through a comprehensive plan bringing together all Member States.

81. **Mr. Giorgio** (Eritrea) said that terrorism had grown and evolved significantly over the past two

decades, with some terrorist groups now functioning as multi-billion-dollar operations governing large areas of land. Although terrorism was a global phenomenon, its effects were felt particularly strongly in States suffering from fragility and conflict. The need for a common strategy to effectively contain and eliminate international terrorism could not be overstressed. Law-enforcement and military responses to terrorism had limits; true success could only be achieved through sustainable development, as despair stemming from poverty provided fertile ground for the recruitment of terrorists.

82. Eritrea had a multi-ethnic and multi-faith society, and therefore attached great importance to the promotion of inclusiveness and social justice. Its secular education system fostered religious tolerance, and its national service programme promoted interaction and the exchange of experiences among high school students from diverse ethnic, geographic and cultural backgrounds. It had established a government body dedicated to combating terrorism and organized crime, developed a registry system for the control of firearms and explosives, and adopted laws to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Eritrea had joined the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group as an observer and was a party to a number of relevant regional mechanisms, and had concluded bilateral and trilateral agreements on countering terrorism with neighbouring countries.

83. His delegation called for the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in order to effectively combat international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including emerging threats such as the misuse of technology. It hoped that progress would soon be made towards adopting a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

84. **Mr. Kpatamango** (Central African Republic) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever committed. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion or civilization and could only be eliminated through the mobilization and close cooperation of the entire international community. His delegation therefore called for the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, under the auspices of the United Nations.

85. While his country had not been directly affected by terrorism, it had experienced a comparable situation when a group of Séléka rebels, composed primarily of mercenaries and foreign fighters, had carried out a coup d'état in 2013. While constitutional order had since been

restored, armed groups remained active in large portion of the country and violated human rights and international humanitarian law on a daily basis.

86. The long-term and indefinitely renewable arms embargo against his country had weakened its armed forces, making it difficult for his Government to fulfil its sovereign obligations and restore the authority of the State throughout the country. As a result, armed groups were able to exploit the country's natural resources illegally in order to buy weapons. The absurd war on his country had thus led to a deplorable humanitarian situation. Thousands of citizens had died, and thousands more had been displaced or fled the country as refugees. His Government was working to strengthen the armed forces, the police and the gendarmerie, with support from partners such as the Russian Federation, France, the European Union and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), and urged the United Nations to lift the arms embargo.

87. **Mr. Ly** (Senegal) said that his country strongly condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practices, in all their forms and manifestations; they were all just as unlawful as they were unjustifiable, irrespective of where or by whom they were committed. Moreover, terrorism must not be associated with any religion, culture or race, or used to stigmatize any particular community. He paid tribute to the victims of terrorism and to States, organizations and individuals that were involved in combating the threat. In particular, the United Nations had been making commendable efforts to address all aspects of terrorism in an inclusive manner for decades.

88. While COVID-19 had exposed vulnerabilities and weaknesses of States, it had also revealed their capacity for resilience. The severe economic consequences of the pandemic had considerably hampered efforts to address the root causes of terrorism and the conditions conducive to its spread. Extreme poverty and social exclusion, which provided fertile ground for indoctrination and exploitation by terrorists, had reached unprecedented levels, and terrorists were taking advantage of the extensive use of the Internet to spread their terrorist ideologies and hate speech. The asymmetrical and constantly evolving threat of terrorism must be addressed through inclusive and dynamic international cooperation focused on addressing its root causes.

89. His Government had stiffened the penalties for the advocacy of terrorism and had criminalized the financing of terrorism, the recruitment of terrorists, incitement to terrorism, complicity in terrorism, the

failure to report terrorism, and the harbouring of terrorists. It had also taken a number of counter-terrorism initiatives at the institutional level, including the establishment of an interministerial coordination framework and measures to combat cyberterrorism and other forms of cybercrime. It had consistently participated horizontally and vertically at all levels in collective efforts to overcome the challenges posed by terrorism and would welcome the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

90. **Mr. Ibrahim Sidi** (Niger) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and for whatever purpose committed. Terrorism should not be associated with any race, religion or ethnicity. Measures taken by his Government to combat terrorism included the ratification of 13 multilateral counter-terrorism instruments and the incorporation of those instruments and the relevant Security Council resolutions into the country's law; and the establishment of a national financial information processing unit to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, a national agency to combat human trafficking and a national commission for the collection and control of illicit weapons.

91. Terrorist activities were increasing in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin regions, as terrorists sought to exploit weaknesses and fragilities in the international collective security system that had been revealed and aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The only way to stop the terrorists from achieving their objectives was through the concerted efforts of the entire international community. Failure to successfully combat terrorism in those regions would have serious consequences for the peace and security of other regions.

92. The United Nations had an irreplaceable role to play as a forum for discussion and decision-making concerning international peace and security and should be supported by other relevant organizations and entities. In order to be effective, counter-terrorism efforts must be inclusive, coordinated and guided by the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

93. **Mr. Nfati** (Libya) said that the fight against terrorism required a global response designed to address its root causes, the world's chronic conflicts, ethnic and religious discrimination and social marginalization, and an end to occupations and the resulting theft and oppression. Illegal foreign interventions should also be curbed, as they undermined security and created conditions conducive to terrorism. Terrorists should be

prevented from using advanced technology and social media to spread extremist ideology.

94. States had agreed on the need to exchange information and expertise, and several terrorist networks had been successfully monitored and their protagonists brought to justice. The current regional and international instruments should enable the international community to fulfil its counter-terrorism objectives.

95. Libya strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its origin or motivations. It had long warned against connecting terrorism with any given religion or belief system, and against equating terrorism with the struggle of peoples for independence and self-determination. Libya had paid a heavy price in confronting terrorists, many of them foreign terrorist fighters, who had sought to take control of the country, exploit its natural resources and use it as a launch pad to spread chaos abroad. Certain States had intervened and collaborated with a parallel government, encouraging a military offensive on Tripoli. As a result, ISIL, which had been routed by the forces of the Government of National Accord in Sirte, had re-emerged in the south of the country.

96. Libya had acceded to all relevant international conventions, was a party to a range of regional instruments, and was committed to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and participating in all international counter-terrorism forums. It remained determined to coordinate with its neighbours and its allies, particularly the United States, to confront and prosecute terrorist groups.

97. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that States had a collective responsibility to combat terrorism and other transnational crime, a significant amount of which was now occurring in cyberspace. A terrorist attack on any country was an attack on all countries, since terrorism, of any origin and in any form, violated the fundamental shared values of the international community. Namibia had ratified all the major international counter-terrorism conventions, and had adopted a plethora of domestic instruments on terrorism, the financing of terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters, in order to comply with its obligations under those conventions and the relevant Security Council resolutions. His delegation called on all Member States to implement Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2005\)](#) and [2242 \(2015\)](#), concerning women and peace and security.

98. **Mr. Rodrigo** (Sri Lanka) said that as a country that had suffered under the yoke of terrorism for nearly three decades, Sri Lanka strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism and violent extremism corroded the very fabric of societies and put

international peace and security at risk. There was a close relationship between organized crime and terrorism. Links to organized criminal networks provided terrorist groups with a strong support structure and enabled them to spread their ideologies, raise funds and acquire weapons. Terrorist groups were funded by the illegal drug trade, arms trafficking, human trafficking, money-laundering and cybercrime. To address those problems, States should share intelligence, databases and expertise and enhance their cooperation on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

99. His Government had long emphasized the need to combat the financing of terrorism, including in the context of its 30-year struggle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The group's international networks and links to organized crime had served as a critical and lucrative lifeline, enabling it to carry out many attacks against civilians and the State. While the group's military efforts in Sri Lanka had ended in defeat in 2009, its networks abroad continued to exist.

100. The terrorist attacks carried out on Easter Sunday in 2014 had resulted in the death of more than 250 civilians, including foreign visitors. The support and solidarity extended to Sri Lanka by the international community following the attacks had bolstered the country's resolve to rebuild its society and eliminate the new threat of terrorism and violent extremism. In addition to banning the three main organizations directly linked to the attacks, his Government had adopted laws to give effect to Security Council resolutions on countering violent extremism and on foreign terrorist fighters.

101. Terrorism and violent extremism knew no borders. Moreover, the front lines of the fight against terrorism were increasingly shifting to cyberspace, with terrorist groups using the Internet and social media to spread propaganda, recruit followers and coordinate attacks. Governments must work together, and with civil society, communities and religious leaders, to ensure that early warning signs of radicalization were not missed. It was also vitally important for the media to foster peace, dialogue and understanding. In particular, more should be done to prevent social media from being used to promote racism, hate and intolerance.

102. It was important to strengthen the capacities of counter-terrorism structures and institutions, and to complement security measures with efforts to identify and address the root causes of terrorism. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and related resolutions provided a comprehensive framework that could be further built on to guide States. It was unfortunate that it had not yet been possible to finalize

a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, even though there was broad consensus on the matter. His delegation urged Member States to demonstrate the political will necessary to bring negotiations on the draft convention to a positive conclusion. His delegation's full statement would be made available in the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations*.

103. **Ms. Shaheen** (United Arab Emirates) said that the pandemic had hampered counter-terrorism efforts and provided an opportunity for terrorists to expand their criminal activities. Confronting the pandemic and terrorism would require concerted subregional, regional and international cooperation. The international community should work to build capacities, notably by training experts and providing technical support to counter the financing of terrorism. States should also work to develop their legal systems in order to ensure consistency with international law.

104. Her Government had adopted a range of laws to prosecute terrorists, prevent the financing of terrorism and criminalize actions connected with the defamation of religions. It urged the United Nations to hold accountable States that violated the relevant international resolutions and norms by funding the media outlets of terrorist organizations. The Hedayah centre in Abu Dhabi had also formulated recommendations on the deradicalization, disengagement and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and helped support the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. In cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the centre, her Government had convened a global conference, held in Abu Dhabi on 18 and 19 December 2019, to discuss practical ways of empowering young people and promoting tolerance in countering radicalization and terrorism. A construction project in Abu Dhabi called the "Abrahamic Family House", comprising a church, a mosque and a synagogue, was now being planned.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

105. **Mr. Kayalar** (Turkey) said that the recent outbreak of hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh was a direct consequence of the consistent provocations by Armenia on the ground. The current situation was the result of the Armenian Government's complete disregard for international law and its blatant violations of Security Council resolutions. The hostilities were taking place exclusively in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, meaning that the actions of Azerbaijan were taken in exercise of its right of self-defence. Armenia had an obligation to implement Security Council

resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#), which reflected the will and understanding of the international community. In those resolutions, the Security Council had called for the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian forces must therefore withdraw from the territories they had illegally occupied.

106. Since the beginning of the conflict, his Government had maintained its position that the problem must be resolved in accordance with international law and with respect for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. However, the Armenian authorities refused to take responsibility for their actions, choosing instead to spread vile propaganda and defamatory statements about Turkey. The Government of Armenia was known to seek to distort information about historical events. Its baseless and absurd claims about Turkey lacked credibility and were therefore not worthy of a response.

107. **Ms. Margaryan** (Armenia) said that the international community had clearly condemned the military aggression initiated by Azerbaijan on 27 September 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, and had called for the immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to peaceful negotiations without preconditions. The Secretary-General had expressed his serious concern about the situation, called for an urgent resumption of dialogue without preconditions and expressed his full support for the mediation efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Heads of State of the Co-Chair countries had issued statements calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the resumption of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions. A number of other States and international organizations had made similar calls. The only country that had been openly encouraging the hostilities was Turkey. Azerbaijan was ignoring the voices of the international community and continued to commit crimes of aggression against civilians, homes, schools, hospitals and Armenian cultural heritage sites in Nagorno-Karabakh. Indeed, on the day of the current meeting, the armed forces of Azerbaijan had attacked the Holy Saviour Cathedral in Shushi, causing serious interior and exterior damage. Such barbarity must be stopped immediately.

108. There was an overwhelming international consensus on credible reports that foreign terrorist fighters had been transported to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone from areas of Syria currently occupied by Turkey. International media, non-governmental organizations and high-level officials of Member States had confirmed that

mercenaries and terrorists from groups such as the Nusra Front and the Al-Hamza and Sultan Murad brigades were being recruited and transported to the conflict zone to support Azerbaijan.

109. Attempts by Azerbaijan to deny the facts or cover up its crimes by putting forward delusional fantasies and false counter-accusations would be futile. Azerbaijan and its supporters bore direct responsibility for the criminal acts carried out in violation of Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), pursuant to which Member States had an obligation to cooperate to prevent, counter and suppress terrorism and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

110. **Mr. Uddin** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation rejected the false, baseless and fabricated claims made about terrorism in Bangladesh by the representative of Myanmar in an effort to divert attention from the failure of Myanmar to fulfil its obligations as a State. The internal security problems of Myanmar were of its own creation. The Government of Myanmar had been fighting its own people for decades, and its exclusionist and discriminatory policies had driven some of them to terrorism and extremism.

111. Bangladesh had a zero-tolerance policy on terrorism and did not allow any terrorist group to use its territory to conduct subversive activities against any country, including Myanmar. The Government of Bangladesh had achieved exemplary success in its efforts to counter terrorism through effective operations by its law enforcement agencies. It was also implementing measures to prevent violent extremism and radicalization. The Government of Myanmar, on the other hand, had forced hundreds of thousands of civilians from their homes and blamed other countries for its own failures. Bangladesh was currently hosting more than a million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who had fled their country because of its persecutory policies.

112. Myanmar had failed to provide concrete evidence to support its baseless allegations that ARSA was being supported by Bangladesh. His delegation firmly rejected those false claims and demanded that Myanmar refrain from making such allegations. Moreover, the Government of Myanmar should fulfil its obligation to control the security situation in its territory without instigating a humanitarian crisis or causing spill-over effects in neighbouring countries. The security threats resulting from the internal policies and failures of Myanmar were a destabilizing factor in Bangladesh and the entire region.

113. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that it was clear from the comments made by the representative of

Armenia that her Government was distorting its obligations under international law. Aggression was defined in General Assembly resolution [3314 \(XXIX\)](#) as “the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State”. Nagorno-Karabakh was not a State; it was part of the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, under the temporary occupation of Armenia. Moreover, in its unanimously adopted resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#), the Security Council had not mentioned any aggression by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh, but had rather condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territory. It had also referred to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its international borders; confirmed that Nagorno-Karabakh was part of Azerbaijan; and called for the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia had disregarded all of those resolutions.

114. On 27 September 2020, the Armenian armed forces shelled the Azerbaijani armed forces and populated areas near the border using large-calibre weapons and mortars. Since the outbreak of the hostilities, 31 Azerbaijani civilians, including 3 children and 9 women, had been killed, and 154 civilians had been wounded. The shelling had also damaged or destroyed private houses, apartment buildings, hospitals and other medical facilities, ambulances, schools and energy infrastructure. Azerbaijan was successfully implementing counter-offensive measures in order to exercise its right of self-defence and liberate Azerbaijani territories from occupation. Its primary objective was to put an end to the unlawful foreign military presence in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. His country did not lay claim to the land of any other country, but it would not yield an inch of its own territory to any other State.

115. In the 2008 report on the legal consequences of armed aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, which had been circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council ([A/63/662-S/2008/812](#)), it was stated that “the Republic of Armenia may still forestall such developments by putting a prompt end to the occupation of Nagorno Karabakh and surrounding areas. Should the Republic of Armenia do this while the cease-fire lasts, and before the Republic of Azerbaijan opts to re-invoke its right of self-defence, there would be no ground for any actual resumption of hostilities.” Unfortunately, Armenia had ignored that clear message and was now paying the price.

116. His delegation once again categorically rejected the allegations that his Government used foreign terrorist fighters and was involved in terrorist activities. Such statements were lies, and those who disseminated them would come to regret their decision and apologize. On the other hand, Armenia had a long history of using foreign fighters, including terrorists of Armenian and other origins.

117. The Government of Armenia had actively involved such persons in the aggression against Azerbaijan in the early 1990s, and his delegation had shared with the United Nations evidence that Armenia and its diaspora organizations continued to engage in that practice. His delegation would be pleased to share that information with interested delegations. In sum, it was curious that the representative of Armenia made groundless accusations against other countries, while the Armenian Government was responsible for numerous terrorist acts, massacres of civilians and the destruction and desecration of cultural and religious sites in Azerbaijan.

118. **Mr. Kayalar** (Turkey) said that a certain delegation should refrain from hijacking meetings of the Committee to attempt to spread baseless propaganda. He stressed the importance of implementing all Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#).

119. **Ms. Margaryan** (Armenia) said that her country, which had a population of 3 million people, was located between Turkey, which had a population of 80 million, and Azerbaijan, which had a population of 10 million. The suggestion that the small country of Armenia would initiate unprovoked aggression against its much larger neighbours was ridiculous.

120. The representative of Azerbaijan had repeatedly attempted to construct misleading legal arguments concerning the conflict. He had neglected to mention that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh had gained independence with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, in accordance with the international legal norms in force at the time. The Azerbaijani authorities had responded with brutal force to the peaceful aspiration for self-determination of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. The conflict had begun with the pogroms targeted at the Armenian population in Sumgait in February 1988, which had been carried out in response to peaceful appeals for self-determination. The four Security Council resolutions on the matter adopted in 1993 could in no way be interpreted as permission to kill, carry out barbarous acts or sponsor international terrorism in 2020, especially in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic.

121. For years, the Government of Azerbaijan had been rejecting the proposals of the conflict mediators concerning the establishment of a ceasefire verification mechanism to investigate and prevent ceasefire violations. It was clear that the Government of Azerbaijan had failed to support the Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire in all corners of the world – which had been backed by Armenia and 169 other Member States – because it had been preparing for the armed aggression currently under way in Nagorno-Karabakh. Her Government resolutely rejected all narratives that misrepresented the root causes and consequences of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and the fundamental principles that should guide its resolution.

122. It was futile for the representative of Azerbaijan to deny the established fact that foreign terrorist fighters recruited by Turkey had been transported to Nagorno-Karabakh. Her delegation strongly rejected the claims that terrorists had been recruited in Armenia. No credible source or media outlet had ever reported on such claims. Armenia would not engage in further discussion on the matter unless Azerbaijan and Turkey clearly explained why foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries had been transported to Nagorno-Karabakh from Syrian territories that were currently under Turkish control. Her delegation condemned in the strongest terms all attempts to use foreign terrorist fighters to create violence and instability in the region.

123. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that it was clear from the relevant Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993 that Armenia was the aggressor in the conflict. Its actions, including the occupation of Azerbaijani territory, had been condemned by the Security Council and the international community at large. The actions described by the representative of Armenia as acts taken in exercise of the right of self-defence had been unequivocally qualified by the Security Council and other international bodies as the unlawful use of force. In reality, the right of self-defence of the people of Azerbaijan was being grossly violated as a result of the Armenian policy of aggression, occupation and ethnic cleansing.

124. As the aggressor in the conflict, and a terrorist and racist State, Armenia was the main destabilizing factor and a serious threat to peace and security in the South Caucasus. Its aggression and occupation of Azerbaijani territories were the main causes of the recurrent escalations on the ground. The current outbreak of hostilities was the result of the Armenian Government's inflammatory and war-mongering statements, provocations on the ground and attempts to derail the peace process. The first steps towards a cessation of hostilities and peace, security and

stability must be the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders, and the return of displaced persons to their homes and property.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.