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de la République du Bénin
Auprès des Nations Unies



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62nd SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SIXTH COMMITTEE

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

STATEMENT

BY

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ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAIN GROUP**

NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2007

**Statement on terrorism by H.E. Mr. Jean - Marie EHOUZOU,
Ambassador Permanent Representative
on behalf of the African Group
New York, 10 October 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee. Congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau on their election and I would like to assure you of our full cooperation and support.

We thank the Secretary General for his report A/62/160.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no justification for terrorism. African States strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomever committed, including State terrorism.

We recognize that all nations, whether or not directly affected by terrorist acts, share a common interest in being more proactive and adopting a preventive approach and that the challenge to be met does not primarily concern the lack of applicable rules.

Africa has long recognized the need to embark on concrete measures to counter the phenomenon of terrorism. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in 1999, which came into force in 2002. This was followed up by a Plan of Action by an inter-Governmental High Level Meeting in September 2002. In addition, the African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) was established in Algiers. This demonstrates the commitment by African Member States to address terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

A part from implementing concrete measures, more attention in the fight against terrorism needs to be paid to the further strengthening of inter-state cooperation. States should expand the range of assistance available in the apprehension of terrorists and in the investigation and prevention of terrorist acts.

In this light, African Group welcomes the initiatives to encourage cooperation between the UN and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism. We appreciate the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCTI) elaborated by the African Center for study and Research on Terrorism and the United States' Africa Center for Strategic Studies. We also welcome the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on combating terrorism in West and Central Africa. All these initiatives are important ways of strengthening the capacity of African countries to adopt coordinated approaches on countering terror.

Mr. Chairman,

The implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and related UN Security Council resolutions, and capacity-building in developing countries is vital for a well-functioning universal international law approach towards terrorism.

Africa always endeavors to live up to its international obligations in the fight against terror and in the implementation of related Security Council resolutions. However, many of African states are hamstrung by inadequate resources and weak capacity and require assistance from the international community to be able to fulfill their obligations. We therefore appeal to the international community to provide adequate levels of support to African states to enable them deliver more easily on their commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group appreciates the work done so far by the ad hoc committee in drafting a comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. Some progress towards a general definition has been made. In this regards, definitions in regional instruments may be useful.

The comprehensive Convention on international terrorism should, in no way deny people their right to self-determination. The proposed international legal instrument should make a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle for freedom and independence, of people under foreign occupation or colonial rule. Liberation struggles do not constitute terrorism, as is recognized in many relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolution 46/51 of 09 December 1992.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group reiterates its willingness to work actively with other delegations to continuously refine the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy as well as to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be given serious consideration.

Thank you.