

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement by
The Delegation of Egypt

before
the Sixth Committee
on item 99
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

New York, 8 October 2008

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau for your elections. The Delegation of Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the African and Arab Groups. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General, the Chair and Coordinator of the Ad hoc Committee established pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution A/51/210 for the reports they have prepared and for their efforts directed towards the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention and convening the High Level Conference.

Mr. Chair,

The international community has proved in numerous occasions its ability to overcome the difference in opinions in order to bring the contentious issues to an agreement and the international efforts to a success. The General Assembly was able to adopt the Global Strategy for Countering Terrorism by consensus and to adopt the sectoral conventions that deal with countering terrorism. Hence, we are confident that a forceful political will from all parties will lead to the speedy conclusion of the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention in order to complete the legal framework to countering terrorism.

In this regard, The Delegation of Egypt reiterates its condemnation to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of its motivations or objectives. It also emphasizes the importance not to associate terrorism with any specific religion or culture, instead of promoting the culture of tolerance that all religions call for, especially that this instigates malice and hatred among peoples and enhances the chances of terrorists to abuse these conditions in disseminating their ideas and activities that threatens the safe nations.

From this perspective, the Delegation of Egypt reiterates the necessity to address the root causes of terrorism and eliminate its underlying causes, in particular that political, economic and security factors, through putting an end to conflicts, eliminating the double standards in implementing international legitimacy, ending foreign occupation, recognizing the right of peoples for self determination, putting an end to States practice of State Terrorism, abolishing the foundation of injustice and the attack on human rights and dignity. Therefore, the Delegation of Egypt foresee the importance of finalizing the negotiations to conclude the Comprehensive Convention on Countering Terrorism as a fundamental step to address the legal issues that the sectoral conventions on terrorism did not address, in an attempt to strongly combat the phenomenon of terrorism and to prevent its expansion.

And, from the practical perspective, the Delegation of Egypt likes to present the efforts exerted to counter terrorism in implementing the relevant GA resolutions. On the national level, the Government of Egypt is currently drafting a new law to countering terrorism in order to bring

under its umbrella all the legal provisions regarding countering terrorism. On the regional level, Egypt took part in the preparation of the Convention on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in Counter Terrorism that was adopted at the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries on the implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments held in Rabat in May 2008. Egypt also contributes to the efforts of the League of Arab States in preparing a draft Arab Convention to Countering Money Laundering and another draft Arab Convention to Counter Cyber Crimes, especially using the internet in the crimes dealing with terrorism. On the international level, Egypt contributes to the international efforts to counter terrorism through the cooperation on both bilateral and multilateral levels. From this perspective, the Delegation of Egypt reiterates the importance of international cooperation to assist the developing countries in building their capacities to countering terrorism and to ensure that national laws and the authorities involved in countering terrorism respect rules of human rights, justice and the rule of law.

Moreover, the Delegation of Egypt asserts the necessity to invigorate the negotiation process on Article 18 of the Comprehensive Convention or reconsider the definition of the terrorist acts in Article 2 in order to reaffirm the distinction between the terrorist act and the legitimate acts in accordance with international humanitarian law that national liberation movements exercise while exercising their right for self determination and also the incrimination of acts committed by States against innocent civilians aiming at terrorizing them while exercising State terrorism. The Delegation of Egypt reaffirms its full commitment to start a new round of negotiations in order to reach an agreement on it among all Member States of the GA.

From the same perspective, the Delegation of Egypt accentuates the importance of holding the High-Level Conference on countering terrorism under the aegis of the United Nations aiming at reaching a concrete definition to terrorism that draw a distinction between the legal rules to counter terrorism and the international humanitarian law. This may assist in the speedy conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention, while taking into consideration that the final document adopted in Havana by the Non-Aligned Movement, and the consecutive documents of the African Union and the League of Arab States Summits emphasized the importance of convening the High Level Conference.

Mr. Chair,

Finally, the Delegation of Egypt reaffirms its commitment to exert all efforts to conclude the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention to Combat Terrorism to bring the efforts of the Sixth Committee to a success in coming up with a unified legal definition to terrorism and to ensure the strengthening of the international legality and to the role of the United Nations in establishing international peace and security, and bringing defeat to terrorism.

Thank you Mr. Chair.