

Mr. Mohammed BESSEDIK
Ambassador, DPR.

ALGERIA

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your well-deserved election to the chairmanship of the 6th Committee and assure you of our full support. Our congratulations go also to the other Members of the Bureau on their election.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria would like to reiterate once more its strong and unequivocal condemnation of all forms of terrorism, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Algeria reiterates also its determination to continue its combat against terrorism.

My delegation stresses the need to agree upon an accurate definition of terrorism. Such definition should be in line with the United Nations Charter and the International Law, and should avoid any confusion between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation to achieve their inalienable right to self-determination, as endorsed by the General Assembly resolution 46/51 and other related United Nations documents.

Equally, we will continue to warn against all misconceptions and the tendentious association of terrorism with a religion, a civilization, or a geographical area.

Algeria reiterates in this regard, its support for the convening of a high-level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a common stand to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Such a Conference would highly contribute to overcoming the remaining outstanding issues and reaching the required consensus on the text.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria strongly believes that preventing and combating terrorism still require a high level of vigilance, mobilization and multifaceted cooperation at the national, regional and international levels.

Countering terrorism and fundamentalism cannot be limited exclusively to repressive dimension, but need to deploy, upstream, coherent political strategy based on prevention, dialogue and understanding of the attraction exerted by terrorism.

In response to this fact, Member States had adopted on 2006 the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which provides an all encompassing approach: from preventing and combating terrorism to addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism; from strengthening the

capacity of States and the United Nations to ensuring full respect for human rights.

In this context, my delegation would like to stress the importance of keeping the United Nations Strategy relevant and contemporary in the light of emerging new threats and evolving trends of international terrorism.

The struggle against violent extremism and terrorism must also include the fight against xenophobia and Islamophobia, which are emerging as the new faces of violent extremism. In July 2015, Algeria hosted The International Conference on the fight against extremism and de-radicalization. The Conference offered an opportunity for my country to share with the participants, including those directly involved in the fight against extremism and radicalization, the experience of Algeria in its constant battle against this transnational phenomenon.

The works of this two-day conference aimed to identify common challenges in the field of de-radicalization and the fight against violent extremism, as well as actions that may constitute cooperation tracks within the UN system or the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF).

Mr. Chairman,

The increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups aiming to raise funds or gain political concessions, remain a disquieting issue. The Algeria's policy not to pay ransoms or make other substantive concessions to hostage-takers is well known and clear.

In this regard, we welcome the significant progress made towards the prohibition of the payment of ransoms. Those efforts that we have undertaken to the prohibition of ransom payments with our partners have culminated during the Fourth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by calling all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria's efforts to combat terrorism and improve regional and international awareness and cooperation in that regard, predate the manifestation of major acts of international terrorism. Algeria has sought from the beginning to strengthen efforts against terrorism at the African level and as a result, many instruments and initiatives have emerged and are playing today a very important role in enhancing the effectiveness of the African efforts in that regard.

In this respect, and through the decision condemning the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups, the appointment of a Special Representative for

Counterterrorism Cooperation and also the establishment of a subcommittee on terrorism within the African Union Council for Peace and Security, the African Union is fully committed to the fight against terrorism in all its forms.

Africa's commitment to fight the financing of terrorism has been reaffirmed in many occasions. The AU Peace and Security Council, in its communiqué adopted on 2 September 2014: "Urges Member States to take the measures required to combat effectively transnational organized crime, in line with the relevant African and international instruments, and to ensure that terrorist groups do not benefit from the proceeds of such criminal activities, including drug trafficking, to finance their activities".

The Communiqué called also for holding a high-level meeting of Member States on the issue of financing of terrorism, with a view to identifying practical measures to address this problem more effectively. Algeria has offered to host this high-level meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

In the Sahel region, the concept of coordination and cooperation finds its full potential. In view of the prevailing situation which requires both coordination and strengthening the capacities of the countries of the region on the basis of the ownership principle, Algeria has engaged in a concerted approach through many mechanisms of cooperation, such as the Countries of the Field, the working Group on the Sahel co-chaired by Algeria and Canada under the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Joint Operational General Staff Committee (CEMOC), the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), and many other Forums which remain of a great contribution to facilitate the deepening of security cooperation between the concerned countries, through coordination and strengthening of border control measures, as well as through intelligence sharing.

The important military deployments on Algeria's borders participate in the efforts undertaken by my government to ensure not only our national security but also that of our neighbors.

In the same vein, Algeria continues its contribution to the stabilization and promotion of peace in the Maghreb region, the North of Mali and the Sahel region with the full respect for universal principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria welcomes the measures and decisions that have been adopted during the Fourth biennial review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, aiming at strengthening cooperation between all stakeholders in fighting terrorism by enhancing, inter alia, the mobilization of resources and the

exchange of expertise and best practices. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) plays, in this regard, a very important role by ensuring overall coordination and coherence and assisting Member States in terms of technical support, policy making and capacity building.

For its part, and through the important work done, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) has proved to be a useful institution which adds value to the UN counter-terrorism efforts and which is steadily becoming one of the key counterterrorism actors.

In conclusion, Algeria expresses its satisfaction with the level of cooperation between UN bodies involved in the counter-terrorism endeavor, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

I thank you.