



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

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**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE MEETING ON AGENDA ITEM 99:
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM,**

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau for your election.

As already mentioned, Turkey has aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. However, given the importance we attach to the topic under consideration, we would like to add a few words from national perspective and highlight our views on certain aspects of this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a crime against humanity which cannot be justified under any reason or pretext. Regardless of their motivations, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism must be unconditionally condemned.

No culture or religion can be associated with violence and terrorism. Implementation of initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations, which are designed to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among different cultures and religions, should be an integral part of our fight against terrorism.

We must take a firm and united stance against terrorism since this scourge constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and none of our countries is immune from this scourge. The fight against terrorism is our common fight and success is the only option we have.

In this regard, the 63rd session of the General Assembly offers us another opportunity to make a significant contribution to this end by concluding our long overdue work on the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. My delegation sincerely hopes that during the current session we would be able to bridge the remaining gaps on the outstanding issues and agree on a truly comprehensive and effective instrument for the fight against terrorism.

In connection with the draft convention, I would like refer to the International Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism, the first-ever United Nations event designed to give the victims of terrorism a voice. This important event has reminded us once again how important and urgent is the task before us. My delegation believes that the symposium, by giving a human face to the scourge of terrorism, has brought a concrete dimension to the discussions on terrorism and hopes that this dimension could accelerate the progress on the draft convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Adoption of international instruments is, of course, an essential part of our collective efforts on counter-terrorism and needless to say, preparation of these instruments is a challenging task. But, we face an even more challenging and demanding task after their adoption: Translating words into deeds. So far 13 universal legal instruments have been adopted.

Moreover, the General Assembly and the Security Council have adopted landmark resolutions on counter-terrorism, such as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Resolution 1373(2001) and 1624(2005). These instruments provide, in principle, a firm basis on the fight against terrorism. They stipulate, *inter alia*, denial of safe havens to terrorists, the obligation to extradite or prosecute, prevention of the abuse of refugee status, all of which are important in our common fight against this scourge. But, the success of our counter-terrorism efforts depends on unwavering and full compliance with all these international conventions as well as all relevant UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions. As a country which has been suffering from the menace of terrorism, Turkey urges to further strengthen our efforts to combat and eradicate terrorism.

As we speak here today, terrorists everywhere around the globe are carrying on their ill agenda. Indeed, my country has lost 17 more victims to terrorism as result of the attack by the separatist terrorist organization against elements of the Gendarmerie Frontier Station on Turkish-Iraqi border last Friday. In this regard, we wish to emphasis once again that time has come to translate all expressions of support and solidarity against terrorism into actions. Turkey on its part is ready and willing to contribute to all the efforts to this end.

Thank you.