



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
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Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

at the Security Council open debate on the theme “Linkages between international terrorism and organized crime” under the agenda item “Threats to international peace and security”

9 July 2019

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Peru for convening this open debate to discuss linkages between international terrorism and organized crime and for submitting the concept note (S/2019/537) on the topic.

Terrorism and related criminal activities continue to represent a serious threat to international peace and security, to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the social and economic development of all Member States. These activities are unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, constitute serious crimes and must be condemned and prosecuted. The instances of shielding and glorification of terrorists may not be tolerated.

The sensitive geographic location of Azerbaijan and unresolved armed conflicts in the region increase trans-border threats, such as international terrorism and related criminal activities. Since the end of the 1980s, as a means of realizing groundless and unlawful territorial claims and as a method of warfare, externally directed terrorist attacks have been repeatedly perpetrated against my country, claiming the lives of thousands of its citizens.

While recognizing the significance of addressing all conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, it is critical to intensify conflict resolution efforts in various parts of the world. Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often create opportunities for terrorists, organized criminal groups and networks to benefit from exploitation of natural resources, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in cultural property, money-laundering and other crimes.

The strict compliance by all States with their international obligations, including the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, is critical to ensure, *inter alia*, that their respective territories are not used for terrorist and related criminal activities, in particular for financing of and providing, directly or indirectly, any support to such activities under whatever pretext or disguise.

It is important that, where terrorists or organized criminal groups are engaged in unlawful commercial activities, including in conflict zones and occupied territories, corporate liability and the individual criminal responsibility function in tandem to ensure prosecution of corporations or their representatives for violations of international law.

In this connection, in addition to measures that States are entitled to take at the national level to assert criminal jurisdiction over crimes perpetrated by their nationals overseas, international cooperation in criminal matters, with mutual legal assistance as its component, is the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related offences.

Azerbaijan strongly supports enhanced individual and collective counter-terrorism measures, including in particular those aimed at degrading and ultimately defeating terrorist organizations, their affiliates and networks.

We recognize that significant efforts have been made by the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations to promote cooperation and coordination and to strengthen the capacities of Member States in combating international terrorism and organized crime. It is important that these efforts continue and expand.

Although terrorism and organized crime have different motivations and legal regimes, there is a need for further comprehensive examination of evolving linkages between them. We commend the initiative of holding this open debate to share and highlight experiences, lessons learned, good practices and context-specific challenges and consider it useful to continue discussions on the topic.

Thank you.