



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

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the General Assembly plenary meeting on agenda item 123:
“The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”**

6 July 2021

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Permanent Representative of Oman, H.E. Mohammed Al Hassan, and the Permanent Representative of Spain, H.E. Mr. Agustin Santos Maraver, for their tireless work and dedication in facilitating and guiding the negotiations on the Seventh Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We are also grateful to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, for his leadership of the process that led to the adoption of the important resolution by consensus.

Our delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. I would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Azerbaijan knows about the scourge of terrorism from first-hand experience. My country has repeatedly been a target of externally directed terrorist attacks perpetrated as a method of warfare to achieve political ends. Azerbaijan is determined to continue taking all measures stemming from its rights and obligations under relevant bilateral and multilateral instruments and mechanisms with a view to curbing terrorist activities within its internationally recognized territory and bringing those responsible to justice.

Although the resolution on the Seventh Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy failed to address a number of challenging issues essential for effectively preventing and countering terrorism, we welcome the consensus, which reflects, first and foremost, the importance of international cooperation, the role of the General Assembly and multilateralism and the need for strengthened action.

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.

However, terrorism and related criminal activities continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the sovereignty and territorial integrity and the social and economic development of Member States.

We observe a rise of terrorist activities motivated by intolerance, extremism, violent separatism, hate-fuelled ideas, racist ideology and extensive disinformation campaigns in media and social networks.

Terrorism is used to advance the policies of aggression, occupation and ethnic cleansing against sovereign States, often with involvement of foreign terrorist fighters. We welcome the reaffirmation in the resolution of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of all States in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Terrorists often benefit from transnational organized crime, including from the illicit trafficking of arms, persons, drugs, cultural property, illicit exploitation of and trade in natural resources, and from the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations. The known instances include ethnic diaspora organizations engaged in facilitating the recruitment and transfer of terrorists, as well as in raising funds and collecting other material means to finance terrorist activities against other States. We note the special emphasis made in the resolution on the need to prevent and oppose such activities.

There can be no justification to terrorism and related criminal activities. Equally, the instances of shielding and glorification of terrorists cannot be tolerated. We welcome the acceptance in the resolution of Azerbaijan's proposal on the rejection of attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorism as a means of incitement to terrorist acts and violent action.

It is critical that Member States undertake consistent measures to prevent their territories from being used for terrorist and related criminal activities, in particular for terrorist installations, training camps, safe havens for preparation of terrorist acts against other States, financing of and providing, directly or indirectly, any support to such activities under whatever pretext or disguise.

Furthermore, Member States are under obligation to suppress the mobilization of foreign terrorist fighters, strengthen border security, prosecute travel or attempted travel for terrorist purposes and address evolving linkages between terrorism and organized crime.

We concur with the Secretary-General that deterring, disrupting and foiling terrorist attacks and bringing suspected terrorism offenders to justice have to remain a priority in our activities, in accordance with international law.

Terrorist acts committed in the context of armed conflict may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, thus entailing individual criminal responsibility and giving rise to measures that States are entitled to take at the national level to assert criminal jurisdiction over crimes perpetrated by their nationals overseas, as well as to international cooperation in criminal matters, with mutual legal assistance as its essential component.

It is also important that corporate liability and criminal responsibility function in tandem to ensure prosecution for violations of international law.

We are of the strong view that no amnesty or any other form of early release can be granted for perpetrators of terrorist acts.

Last but not least, as many colleagues have already stated, the war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. That principle must be part and parcel of any counter-terrorism strategy. We notice a particular emphasis on that in the resolution.

We look forward to effective implementation of the resolution on the Seventh Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as a matter of priority, in good faith and through genuine international cooperation, partnership and solidarity.

Thank you.