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

**at the General Assembly plenary meeting on agenda item 121:
“The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Permanent Representative of Canada, H.E. Mr. Robert Rae, and the Permanent Representative of Tunisia, H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, for their efforts in facilitating and guiding the negotiations on the Eighth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We are also grateful to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, for his leadership of the process.

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.

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan knows about the scourge of terrorism from first-hand experience. My country has repeatedly been a target of externally directed terrorist attacks, which claimed the lives of thousands of our citizens. For more than thirty years, the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan have been a zone of presence and activities of infiltrated terrorist, mercenary and other armed groups, accumulation and proliferation of uncontrolled armaments and military equipment and illicit exploitation of and trade in natural resources and other illegal activities.

Mr. President,

Despite tangible results achieved in developing international law, promoting cooperation and coordination and enhancing the capacities of States, terrorism remains a potential and even immediate threat in many regions and countries.

Terrorism has become more geographically, ideologically and tactically diverse and has evolved further under the impact of information and communication technologies.

Furthermore, in some parts of the world, including our region, terrorism has been used as a method of warfare to advance territorial claims and support separatism and aggressive wars against sovereign States.

The threat from terrorism grounded in xenophobia, racism, ethno-nationalism and intolerance has also increased. In his report on the topic (A/77/266), the Secretary-General recognized the need for further research and international cooperation in this area and for more efforts to better understand transnational linkages of this threat.

Terrorism continues to benefit from organized crime, both domestic and transnational, and the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations.

Among the instances of this kind are radical ethnic diaspora communities engaged in facilitating the recruitment and transfer of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries and in raising funds and collecting other material means to finance terrorist and related criminal conduct.

As the Secretary-General emphasized in his report on the activities of the UN system in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/77/718), there is a need for continued commitment and concerted action to prevent and disrupt illicit financial flows intended for terrorist purposes. We also note the relevant provisions in the resolution relating to countering the financing of terrorism and its nexus with organized crime.

Effective border security is the first line of defence against terrorist activities and the illegal cross-border trafficking, movement and organized crime, requiring all States to maintain secure air, land and maritime borders and ensure effective border controls and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents.

Furthermore, over the period since the Seventh Review, terrorist acts against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives have continued. In most instances, measures taken by receiving States to prevent violence and ensure the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and their staff were either insufficient or futile.

The strict compliance by all States with their international counter-terrorism obligations is critical to ensure, *inter alia*, that their respective territories are not used for terrorist, separatist and other related activities, in particular for financing of and providing, directly or indirectly, any other support to such activities under whatever pretext or disguise.

Bringing the perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice has to remain a priority. As the Secretary-General emphasized in his report A/77/718, accountability is critical to upholding the rights of victims and their families, restoring trust among affected communities and ultimately contributing to addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism.

It is also important not to grant amnesty or any other form of early release to the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Equally, the instances of shielding and glorification of terrorists cannot be tolerated.

Azerbaijan strongly supports the relevant provisions of the resolution on accountability, including in particular those rejecting attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorist acts and calling for measures aimed at prohibiting incitement to commit terrorist acts and denying safe haven to the perpetrators of such acts.

Furthermore, continued solidarity with and support for victims and survivors of terrorism and affected States must remain humanitarian and human rights imperative.

Last but not least, as many delegations have noted, 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.

Comprehensive, principled, inclusive and forward-looking approaches through effective multilateral response under all four pillars of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy have to underpin all counter-terrorism efforts.

Thank you.