Statement

by

Lebanon

at the
Sixth Committee

Item 107: "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

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Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY. 10017

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to conduct the work of the 69th session of the sixth committee.
My delegation takes note of the recent Secretary-General's report prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 50/53. Moreover, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Iran of behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

In light of the latest developments that have unfolded in my country and the region, this topic appears to be most timely. However, even though all eyes have lately been turning on the Middle East, we should keep in mind that terrorism does not spare the rest of the world.

There is no doubt on the strong unanimous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Rather, the challenge that should lie at the core of our discussion must focus on the most effective way to bolster our collective action and efforts to eradicate, once and for all, a scourge that has been plaguing our societies for too long.

In this regard, Lebanon welcomes the sustained efforts of the international community and its readiness to confront Daesh and Al-Nusra Front, notably through the adoption this year of UNSC Resolution 2170, imposing a set of sanctions against the aforementioned groups and Resolution 2178, which aims at countering violent extremism that leads to terrorism and dealing with foreign terrorist fighters. Such measures are a strong signal of the international community's determination to eliminate this threat. We also reassert our full support to the two Arab League resolutions calling for the adoption of immediate measures to combat terrorism on the political, defense, security and legal levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Earlier this year, the General Assembly adopted the fourth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which shed light on the importance to promote an integrated and balanced approach in the implementation of the four complementary pillars to counter terrorism. We thus note with deep satisfaction that Pillar I and IV, dealing respectively with the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the respect of human rights in the fight against terrorism, are reflected in Resolution 2178.

In this context, my delegation would like to recall, once more, the utter importance it attaches to prevention, particularly through education and the

Terrorist groups exploit these weaknesses and flaws to fuel their hate speech and spread their ideology.

The other core principle Lebanon highly values is the imperative to uphold human rights standards and the rule of law while countering terrorism; two compatible and not antithetical tasks. Such principle has been anchored in GA Resolution 68/178, co-sponsored by Lebanon and adopted in December 2013. Furthermore, and as we acknowledge the undeniable role ICT plaY5in fighting terrorism, we are of the view that this tool has to be used cautiously and in line with fundamental rights, such as the right to privacy, and not serve as a pretext to violate such guarantees.

Let me also laud the efforts and work of UN bodies such as CTITF, UNCCT, UNODC and CTED for their significant cooperation and expertise in assisting States to eradicate terrorism, as it is emphasized in the latest report.

Mr. Chairman,

The time has now come to reflect these measures in a comprehensive convention that will define terrorism in a unified manner. Indeed, a clear and well-established definition will enable us to eliminate some simplistic confusion, and better draw the line between acts of terrorism and other ones too often assimilated to them.
Here, it is of utmost importance to recall the distinction between terrorism and legitimate right to resist foreign occupation, as it is solidly rooted in international law.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorist attacks that occur on our soil have taken