Statement by H.E. Mr. Halit ~evik, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, at the Sixth Committee for the 69th Session of the General Assembly on the Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me join other representatives congratulating you on your election to the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. You can rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism continues to pose serious threat to peace, security, stability and wealth of the member states.

Unfortunately, the terrorist threat does not seem to diminish. On the contrary it is constantly and unpredictably evolving and it has intensified in terms of violence.

In this context, I wish express my country's full solidarity with the families, friends and loved ones of innocent victims of terrorism all around the world. We share their grief.

Mr. Chairman,

The recent attacks by ISIL, which have broad security implications not only for the region, but also for the entire international community, have established once again the transboundary nature of the terrorism threat and shown us that this global threat requires a global response.

Indeed, Turkey has consistently advocated, based on her painful terrorism experience, that international solidarity and cooperation are crucial in countering terrorism. Today, this is true more than ever.

In this context, our priority remains to enhance international cooperation and where necessary to assist capacity-building efforts. In this regard, we have concluded bilateral agreements in the field of security cooperation, fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime with 70 countries.

Turkey sees the UN as the main platform for promoting a concerted approach against terrorism. We actively contribute to capacity building efforts and work of the UN agencies and regional organizations. Turkey is party to most of the UN conventions and protocols on terrorism. Let me underline here that the work of this Committee is particularly valuable in this regard.

It is also with this understanding that we support and take active part in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Turkey is pleased to have facilitated the resolution on the outcome of the Fourth Review of the Strategy last June. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with all our partners in the run up to the 10th year of its adoption.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), an informal and consultative global platform dedicated to complement the work of the UN, which was launched three years ago and now has 30 members, of which Turkey is a Co-chair.

At the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the GCTF held on 23th September 2014, the Forum's role in addressing three issues of increasing concern was highlighted: namely, the growing "foreign terrorist fighter" phenomenon; the increasing use of kidnapping for ransom by terrorist groups; and the growth of violent extremism.

Mr. Chairman,

The radical groups' advance in the region, fueled by an unprecedented influx of foreign terrorist fighters have clearly demonstrated the necessity that the "foreign fighter phenomenon" should be handled in a wider security perspective, with a comprehensive approach.

In this context, we need to address the root causes that lead young people to embrace violent extremism. That is why the deligitimization of the terrorists' so-called ideology and narrative is vital for reducing vulnerability to extremist ideologies by addressing conditions conducive to terrorism.

In this regard we have welcomed the adoption of the recent Security Council resolutions (2170 and 2178), reflecting he international community's resoluteness

However, it should not be forgotten that sustained conflicts provide groups involved in terrorism an opportunity for recruitment, as well as safe havens to increase their warfare capabilities. It is a fact that conflict zones and the resulting atmosphere of chaos and instability have increasingly become magnet for recruits. Therefore, efforts aimed at solving conflicts should also be enhanced.

Mr. Chairman,

Bearing in mind the close link between terrorism and organized crime,