General Assembly - Sixth Committee - 72nd Session Statement by: Mr. Amit Heumann, Legal Adviser

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the 6th Committee. I assure you of the full support of my delegation.

I would also like to reiterate my delegation's warm welcome to Ambassador Vladimir Voronkov and congratulate him on his appointment to lead the Office of Counter-Terrorism. I also extend a warm welcome and congratulations to Ms. Michele Coninsx on her new appointment as Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. We trust these appointments will lead to further, positive collaboration on the crucial issues at stake and hope they will help turn the UN into a leading voice in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

From Egypt to London, and from Mali to Mosul, this summer witnessed some of the most horrific terror attacks. Terrorists have left a trail of death, blood and grief across the globe and show no signs of recoil.

Unfortunately, Israel has not been spared from this devastating trend. In one of these appalling attacks, a terrorist broke into the house of

Recently, Israel adopted a new, comprehensive counter-terrorism law, addressing how to combat emerging threats, while maintaining our commitment to the rule of law. The new law ensures due process rights, allowing all terror designations to be challenged in legal proceedings. While, in the past, the legal battle against terrorism was covered by a variety of domestic laws, our new law offers a holistic, "one-stop shop" approach to combatting terrorism. It is unified, consistent and precise.

It is not an easy balance to protect our citizens against terror, while also staying true to our ideals and values. But we remain committed to upholding democratic norms and obligations, even if that means our fight against terrorism becomes more difficult. As Aharon Barak, the former Israeli Chief Justice, stated, and I quote, "Sometimes, a democracy must fight with one hand tied behind its back. Nonetheless, it has the upper hand."

Mr. Chairman,

Israel is a dedicated partner in the global efforts to fight terror, and is party to the core international instruments of counter-terrorism. We recognize the importance of international cooperation, as well as the role of the United Nations in this fight.

Israel supports a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that would underscore the fact that - without exception - no cause or grievance justifies terrorism in any form or manifestation.

If this committee seeks to continue playing a central role in the field of counter-terrorism, we cannot continue applying different standards to