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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election to steer the

and support throughout the work of the Sixth Committee.

The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The African Group like others would like to express gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on measures to eliminate international terrorism contained in document A/73/125.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no justification for terrorism, which is why African States strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The African Group appreciates the work done so far by the ad hoc committee in drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We reiterate the importance of the

continued effort to that end. We further call upon all states to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues.

The comprehensive convention on international terrorism should, in no way deny people their right to self-determination. The African Group stands ready to work actively with other delegations to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. In view of this, the African Group supports the proposal to convene

All these efforts demonstrate the unflinching international and regional commitment by African Member States to address terrorism, with a view to end the scourge of terrorism in Africa and by extension, the World at large.

Mr. Chairman,

~~While expressing concern about the increase in incidences of kidnaping and hostages~~

taking, aimed at raising funds or gaining political concessions, the African Group considers that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern for the international community and equally concerned that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups constitutes one of the main sources of financing terrorism. In this regard, the African Group urges Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist

groups.

Moreover, the African Group calls upon Member States to prevent refugee status from being abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and also calls

Mr. Chairman.

In closing, measures aimed at ensuring the more effective implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and related UN resolutions as well as capacity-building in

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combating terrorism. Africa always endeavors to live up to its international obligations in the fight against terror and in the implementation of related UN resolutions. However,