

**Statement**  
**on behalf of the**  
**Republic of South Africa**  
**by**  
**Thabo Molefe**  
**Legal Counsellor, South African Permanent Mission**

**before the Sixth Committee of the**  
**73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**under Agenda Item**  
**“Measures to eliminate international terrorism”**

Chair

Allow me to thank you for affording us the floor. South Africa wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election and to assure you

Equally important for the convention, as well as all other initiatives aimed at countering terrorism, remains respect for human rights, particularly the right to life, the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of freedom, the right not to be detained without trial, not to be tortured, not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way, the right of access to courts, as well as universally accepted rights of arrested, detained and accused persons. The human rights of victims of terrorism should equally find expression in our work on this topic.

We also believe that, in order to be effective, the comprehensive convention should address the underlying conditions conducive to terrorism. Its causes and manifestations are varied and should be taken into account when elaborating counter measures, which should be in accordance with international law. Measures implemented should not result in marginalisation and the subsequent sense of alienation that exacerbates extremism, which often leads to further recruitment of terrorists.

With regard to the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, we support the convening of such a conference and believe that it could be an opportunity to mobilise momentum for the finalisation of a comprehensive convention.

Chair

Finally, we wish to stress the importance of support and capacity-building to developing countries to implement global initiatives to combat terrorism. Developing countries are most vulnerable to terrorist attacks, whilst also being least resourced to address terrorism, both in terms of prevention and the prosecution of perpetrators of terrorist acts.

We hope that our deliberations will be fruitful and will yield tangible results that display our shared commitment to working towards practical cooperation to successfully counter the scourge of terrorism.

Thank you.