



United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

(Agenda item 1 10)

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(check against delivery)

Mister Chair,

The elimination of international terrorism has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since its 27th session. Since 1963, the international community has elaborated 19 international instruments to prevent terrorist acts. After the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Security Council and its Counterterrorism Committee have produced a plethora of resolutions, presidential statements, declarations and other instruments on terrorism.

Regrettably, the debate on the topic in the United Nations and our prolific legislative activity over the years have not borne yet what should be their most expected fruit: an internationally agreed definition of terrorism.

It is not surprising to repeatedly hear frequent accusations of selectivity and double standards in the fight against terrorism, despite our consensual condemnation of this scourge in all its forms and manifestations.

We certainly had progress in fighting terrorism, but we are forced to acknowledge our failure so far in getting close to eliminating it. The fragmented international legal framework on the matter currently have is far from being the sole responsible for our setbacks. However, it is not conducive to a comprehensive and durable solution to the threat posed by terrorism.

There is much more we can do to counter this threat more effectively, in a way that is harmonious rather than divisive. We should not let the current circumstances of acute polarization stop us from reaching a broader common ground on the matter nor allow ourselves to be paralyzed by skepticism.

It is high time we negotiated a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The negotiations will be the occasion for us to smooth out differences and allow us to mount a real united front against terrorism.

An international definition of terrorism will also enable us to counter an alarming trend of undue expansion of the term's meaning. The prosecution of terrorism

