PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

by

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On

Agenda Item 105
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

before the

Sixth Committee
67th Session of the
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believe that such summary should have been included in the present document A/67/162 dated 19 July 2012.

Accordingly, I shall try to be very brief in updating the Committee of our counterterrorism efforts since we discussed this matter last year.

Mr. Chairman, one of the most important counter-terrorism measures for the Philippines, then as now, is intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Respect for human dignity lies at the core of greater understanding and tolerance between and among peoples. In this vein, we condemned in the strongest terms both the attack against the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya resulting in the death of Ambassador Chris Stevens and his three colleagues, as well as the offensive video defaming the Prophet Muhammad and Islam, a religion of peace. This tragic event underscores the need to further strengthen our resolve on interfaith dialogue and the Culture of Peace, and to sustain the continuing engagement of all stakeholders, including civil society, religious NGOs, women, the youth, the academe, and the media.

The Philippines also affirms the UN's role in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights, and effective criminal justice systems. Together, they constitute the fundamental basis of our fight against terrorism.

In 2007, the Philippine Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9372, otherwise known as the Human Security Act, our landmark law against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, the exercise of this power to make the terrorist a pariah and remove him from the means to commit terrorism, may appear draconian. But while we are providing more legal tools for law enforcement and judicial authorities to fight terrorism, respect and protection for civil liberties and human rights are assured.

The Philippines thanks the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, for the exchange of information and best practices, as well as their long-standing support for the workshops and training courses conducted by the Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center of the Philippines. Together, they continue to create highly focused training programs to combat terrorism. They are evidence-based and intelligence-led, and emphasize joint training for law enforcement, security and prosecution authorities.

Last March, Manila hosted an experts workshop on Designing Training for Collaborative Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorism-Related Cases. This implements the Philippines' Counter-Terrorism Training Initiative on Capacity Building. At this workshop, Philippine and international experts elaborated upon substantive content for the development of training materials. They also agreed on selection criteria to develop a pool of national trainers and on