Statement by H.E. Archbishop Bernardito Auza Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See

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Agenda Item 109: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee.
My delegation looks forward to collaborating72 Tc 11.845 5el011.8 0 0 11.8 235wian6d65 T.37 Tm (to ) Tj

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Terrorism is an affront to human rights and the rule of law, two other pillars of the United Nations. Simply put, no ideological, political, philosophical, racial, ethnic, or religious reasons can justify or excuse terrorism, as it violates fundamental human dignity and rights. Indeed, all too often, terrorism targets the most vulnerable and defenseless, the civilians, including women and children, thereby increasing the urgency of the international mandate to end it.

That urgency, however, cannot justify policies and measures that sacrifice the rule of law and human dignity in the name of security. It is imperative to uphold the rule of law, adhere strictly to the UN Charter and to international law, and respect fundamental human rights; otherwise, we risk corroding the very values that we seek to protect, alienating large parts of the world population, and diminishing the moral strength of such a strategy. An arbitrary application of unilateral measures, a selective approach to human rights and a disregard for cultures and religions, cannot win hearts and minds, particularly if they appear to be brazen demonstrations of superiority and deliberate acts of provocation.

The United Nation's fourth pillar, development, holds the long-term key to ending terrorism, by allowing us to address the underlying issues that cause it. International