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STATEMENT BY
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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6 October 2021
United Nations HQ,
New York

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the esteemed members of the bureau on your election and assure you of the cooperation and support of my delegation during this 76th session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the earlier statement delivered by Ghana speaking on behalf of the African Group and thanks you for the opportunity to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Terrorism in the Sahel and the West African sub-region continue to threaten and undermine the territorial integrity of Member States as well as the peace and stability in the region. We are concerned that the situation in the Sahel and West Africa is becoming increasingly volatile and that the threat of terrorism is spreading to other parts of the continent. We call for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the root causes of terrorism and to promote peace and stability in the region. We also call for increased international cooperation and support to help Member States in the Sahel and West Africa to strengthen their security and resilience.

My delegation thanks the Secretary

document A/76/201 and for his avowed commitment to support the successful implementation of the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy. We also take note of the extensive work carried out under the 7th Review of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy and welcome its adoption by the General Assembly on 30 June, 2021.

I wish to further

Crimes (UNODC) for its cooperation and support on capacity building which has been useful in strengthening national security and counterterrorism strategies.

The elimination of terrorism calls for robust and integrated responses that can only be achieved through enhanced international cooperation. Ghana would therefore seek to leverage on her membership of the United Nations Security Council in 2022 to advance the already intensive work of the Council on security threats including terrorism and violent extremism on the continent and we count on the support of Member States.

Within the ECOWAS sub-region and under the chairmanship of H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, Member States continue to work closely at all levels of intergovernmental process on border surveillance, information gathering, intelligence sharing, early warning systems, capacity building and mutual legal assistance on criminal matters including transboundary crimes.

Togol, launched in September 2017 by five neighbouring States, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo in response to growing insecurity linked to violent extremism in the region is an important counterterrorism framework designed as a cooperative and collaborative security

mechanism built on three pillars of information and intelligence sharing; training of security and intelligence personnel; and the conduct of joint cross-border military operations

This and several other efforts through regional initiatives and coalitions reinforce the importance of strengthening partnerships between the United Nations and regional bodies for holistic, inclusive and effective counterterrorism measures.

Despite repeated commitments by the international community to undertake concrete measures to eliminate terrorism and violent extremism, terrorist groups continue to be emboldened in their actions as a result of being funded through several formal and informal channels. Financing terrorism is antithetical to our collective goals to promote international peace and security, protect human rights and seek the development of our peoples. We therefore call upon Member States to intensify efforts to suppress and counter terrorism financing

I wish to conclude by emphasizing that military strategies alone are not sufficient in addressing the scourge of terrorism. National and international efforts to eliminate terrorism would be better advanced through a strategic balance between economic development priorities and security priorities. This requires taking into account the needs of the people while rethinking the role of the state and its security institutions in responding to emerging threats. Soft power options aimed at supporting stable democratic governance, reducing inequalities, creating opportunities and redistribution of wealth, provide a repertoire of measures that go to the roots of the problem of terrorism. The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development offers the most comprehensive development blueprint yet and must be implemented as part of the broader approach to address the challenges of insecurity, particularly terrorism.