

Statement of Palestinian Representative at the Security Council Open Debate on “Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Countering the Narratives and Ideologies of Terrorism”

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PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE: At the outset I wish to congratulate the brotherly country of the Arab Republic of Egypt on its presidency of the Security Council this month, wishing your delegation all success in upholding your solemn responsibilities and confident of your skilled leadership. We express our appreciation for the Foreign Minister of Egypt, his Excellency Sameh Shoukry, Shouky’s presence at this important meeting to address the grave issue of terrorism and its threat to international peace and security. And also take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for Egypt’s constant attention and efforts to the issues concerning our region, the Middle East, including in particular the question of Palestine.

Mr. President, countering the narratives and ideologies of the terrorism that is palguing our world and causing so much suffering and trauma for civilians and destruction in so many countries requires urgent collective and comprehensive action. Extremist takfiri ideologies, whereby religion is abused, distorted and maliciously interpreted, for the achievement of political objectives by terror groups, such as Daesh, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, and others must be completely rejected. Those who espouse and promote extremist religious terror ideologies, whether they are Muslim, Christian or Jewish extremists, must not be permitted to continue unopposed in spreading their violent views and actions that are terrorizing millions of innocent civilians and destabilizing peace and security in the Middle East and around the world. Such terror groups and their false and dangerous ideologies must be countered with responsible efforts and cooperative action that are based firmly in international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. While the Security Council must remain at the forefront of this effort, eliminating this scourge obviously requires the mobilization of all of our capacities in the relevant realms of the international system, whether political, legal or financial. And in this regard our collective efforts must make a priority of genuinely redressing the root causes of problems in our world, whether political, security or socio-economic, that are being exploited by extremists to recruit cadres to their ranks for their sinister objectives. We are certain that respect for international law and a zero tolerance policy for impunity would have averted the deepening

of many of the grievances exploited by extremists to advance their ideologies and not given space for the fostering and growth of such ideologies. This of course includes the open wound and longstanding injustice of the question of Palestine, which continues to be cynically used by extremists to justify their abhorrent ideologies and behavior. Moreover, it is imperative that efforts are undertaken to foster and open, honest inter-civilization, inter-religious dialogue that involves and reaches not only at the levels of leaders and governments, but also at the level of the average civilian, including youth and women. Such a dialogue and cooperative efforts must reaffirm international law as the necessary guiding framework for international relations rather than power and might, to reaffirm commitments in this regard and respect for the law and human rights to address major grievances, including to bring an end to the destructive conflicts of our time and to reassert the real tenets of the respective faiths, including tenets of tolerance, peace and respect for humankind, to counter the distortions and misinterpretations that are being used by extremists to advance their ideologies and recruit so many to their ranks, especially disaffected youth.

Mr. President, the State of Palestine adheres to the comprehensive position the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), regarding terrorism, as affirmed in numerous ministerial and summit declarations. Terrorist acts constitute one of the most flagrant violations of international law, and such actions are undermining the human rights, including the right to life and security and the fundamental freedoms of peoples, and are endangering the territorial integrity and stability of states, as well as national, regional, and international security and economic and social stability and development of states. Violent criminal actions intended to provoke a state of terror among persons whatever purposes, whatever and by whomever, are unjustifiable in any circumstances. There should be no exceptions or selectivity in the applications of this principle as we seek to confront extremist ideologies and groups and bring a halt to their terror.

Lastly, we must reaffirm that terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggles of peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. In accordance with the UN Charter, international law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions, the struggles of people under colonial domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation, including the decades long struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom and justice, does not constitute terrorism, and any such characterizations and analogies must be rejected. And I thank you very much, Mr. President.”