

Mr. Gómez Camacho (Mexico) (spoke in Spanish):

Mr. President, I would like to greatly thank your delegation for having convened this debate. I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

I would like to begin by reiterating that my country firmly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Likewise, we are trying to adopt effective measures against terrorism, at the national, regional and international levels, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. All States have an obligation to act in strict compliance with international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.

It is crucial that terrorism not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Political, religious and community leaders must guarantee that messages issued about terrorism and how to tackle it promote tolerance, respect and the culture of peace, avoiding the dissemination of xenophobic and discriminatory messages.

Since 2002, Mexico has led the initiative on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (General Assembly resolution 68/178), both in New York and Geneva. General Assembly resolution 70/148 reiterates the commitment of the international community to respect its obligations in that sphere. It also reiterates the importance of civil society and humanitarian organizations, as well as the right to privacy and the participation of women, in formulating counterterrorist measures.

In the light of the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is to take place in June, I would like to make the following four specific points:

First, greater coherence and coordination are needed among the various United Nations offices that make up the Strategy. That means reviewing the Strategy's architecture and the definition of mandates.

Secondly, we must improve communication and coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Thirdly, it is important to guarantee that the efforts of the Strategy are properly based on the four action pillars, incorporating a broader agenda in terms development, security and respect for human rights.

Fourthly, we must always favour a preventive approach. That means addressing the causes that lead to terrorism through two main actions: enhancing the capacity-building of States and strengthening development.

While it is understandable that we are trying to prevent violent extremism so as to avoid the proliferation of terrorism, it is crucial to think about the implications. Mexico is concerned by the temptation to merge the two concepts, which could lead to an overly broad application of counter-terrorist measures and potentially punish types of behaviour that under no circumstances can be described as terrorist acts.

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