

Remarks of the Chinese Delegation on the Special Meeting of the Counter-terrorism Committee of the United Nations

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm delighted to lead the Chinese delegation to attend the High-level Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council in Madrid. China appreciates the initiative by Spain and United Nations Counter-terrorism Committee, and I would like to thank Spain for all the preparation work and hospitality extended to all the delegates.

Terrorism has become one of the most preeminent threats to world peace and security, and the situation is becoming increasingly serious. This year has already witnessed a notable increase of terrorism in new forms and manifestations, causing huge damage and casualties. The critical situation requests the international community to take strong and effective measures to tackle terrorism.

International counter-terrorism efforts should give full play to the leading role of the United Nations and its Security Council, observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of countries so as to solidify the widest possible common understanding among Member States and take coordinated actions. The relevant countries should report the measures taken and progress made in pushing forward the international counter-terrorism cooperation to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in a timely manner.

International counter-terrorism efforts should uphold uniform standards. Terrorism in whatever form, wherever, whenever and against whomever or whatsoever it is conducted, must be resolutely fought against. There must be no double standards, nor selective actions, and still less should terrorism be linked to specific ethnic groups or religions.

International counter-terrorism efforts should address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism. Military actions only can not solve the problem. We should take integrated measures in the political,

security, economic, financial, intelligence and ideological fields, especially to commit ourselves to eliminating the root causes and breeding grounds of terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recently, the number of foreign terrorist fighters has notably increased. FTFs frequently plan and launch terrorist attacks. The presence of foreign terrorist fighters has exacerbated the intensity of regional conflicts and made it more difficult to resolve them. It seriously threatens the stability and security of countries of origin, transit and destination, contributes to the spread of terrorism and poses an enormous potential threat. Last September, the Security Council of the United Nations passed Resolution 2178 on combating foreign terrorist fighters, which has provided clear guidance for the international cooperation to combat foreign terrorist fighters. As the Counter Terrorism Committee of the Security Council convenes a meeting on combating foreign terrorist fighters today, the international community should take this opportunity to further build consensus, find sound strategy and take effective measures to fight terrorism.

First, we should step up information sharing. The United Nations and relevant international institutions should play a key role in establishing a counter-terrorism database and information exchange platform, making full play of their advantages, so as to step up sharing of intelligence resources and intelligence analysis.

Secondly, we should strengthen border control. This is the most direct and effective way to combat foreign terrorist fighters. All countries, particularly those adjacent to ongoing conflicts, ought to strengthen border control and prevent their own nationals from fleeing abroad and engaging in terrorist and extremist activities. Meanwhile, we should also guard the homeland, tighten the safety net and effectively respond to the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin.

Thirdly, we should strengthen counter-terrorism on the Internet. Since the Internet and other new media are becoming an important channel of the terrorist organizations to conduct attacks, the international community should take effective measures to combat the use by terrorist organizations of the Internet to publish audio and video materials portraying terrorist violence, spread extremist ideologies, recruit fighters, raise funds and plan and conduct terrorist activities. Governments should

effectively implement the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and strengthen their regulation of the Internet. Internet companies and operators must exercise self-discipline. We need to formulate a global code of conduct for businesses in this respect as soon as possible.

Fourthly, we should promote de-radicalization. Countries should together take actions in accordance with law to crack down on and outlaw venues and personnel that engage in advocating and spreading extremism. The international community should advocate the spirit of intercivilizational dialogue characterized by mutual respect, openness and tolerance; create a social environment in which different ethnic groups, cultures and religious treat each other equally and co-exist harmoniously; and build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

China is also a victim of terrorism. The East Turkistan terrorist elements represented by the “East Turkistan Islamic Movement” have continuously instigate, orchestrate and carry out terrorist activities, which have seriously threatened China’s national security and the regional security and stability at large. China’s efforts in fighting against the East Turkistan terrorist elements are an integrated part of world efforts to eradicate terrorism.