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Chairman: Mr. Tomka (Slovakia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 152: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/52/304 and Add.1 and Corr.1, A/52/37 and A/C.6/52/L.3)

1. **Mr. Kirsch** (Canada), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, and of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee, introduced the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/52/37) and of the Working Group (A/C.6/52/L.3).

2. The draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings was, in many ways, the most progressive and the broadest of all the anti-terrorism instruments adopted within the United Nations system. In essence, the draft convention defined certain offences, required that States should criminalize such offences, and made them subject to a regime under which States, including the State of the territory on which alleged offenders were found, had the obligation to prosecute or extradite alleged offenders. It also contained a number of provisions on mutual assistance and other forms of international cooperation. What set the draft convention apart from other instruments was the scope of the offences it covered. In the past, conventions on terrorism had applied to very specific offences and had to be supplemented as other forms of terrorism developed; the current draft, on the other hand, was flexible enough to counter the proven inventiveness of terrorists. Thus, for example, article 2 covered not just bombing attacks, but also attacks with explosives or other lethal devices, including radioactive materials or chemical or biological agents and toxins, and included a wider range of potential terrorist targets, such as State or government facilities, public transportation systems or places of public use.

3. Previous conventions had gone to great lengths to establish the necessary international nexus for offences to fall within their ambit. The current draft convention recognized that, while attacks might be strictly local, terrorists were highly mobile; that explained the wording of article 2 *bis*. The criminal law provisions contained in articles 4 to 9 *ter* were aimed at ensuring the prosecution and punishment of those who committed terrorist bombing offences. The traditional prosecute-or-extradite provisions had been strengthened in article 7, paragraph 2, under which a State that did not ordinarily extradite its own nationals, could do so subject to certain conditions and limitations. Articles 9, 9 *bis* and 9 *ter* represented notable advance in the area of extradition and mutual assistance. States parties could not refuse extradition or assistance solely on the grounds that the offence had been

politically motivated, although offences aimed at causing property damage were included only if the intended destruction was extensive and resulted in major economic loss. The removal of the “political offence” exception had been balanced with detailed safeguards contained in article 9 *ter*. In addition, under the general safeguards clause in article 10 *bis*, all the provisions of the draft convention were subject to the applicable provisions of international law, including those relating to human rights. The provisions contained in articles 10 and 11 were designed to render law enforcement efforts more efficient through international cooperation. Lastly, the draft convention contained final clauses that had now become standard in anti-terrorism instruments.

4. Before turning to article 3, which had been left blank, he wished to note that, like any instrument that was the product of negotiations, the draft convention did not fully satisfy delegations; that fact would certainly be reflected in the debate. However, given the delicate balance that had been achieved, it was unlikely that the quality of the text could be improved.

5. The draft of article 3 discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group contained a provision that would exempt from the parameters of the draft convention the actions of armed forces in time of conflict, as well as those of the military forces of a State in connection with their official duties. All delegations had acknowledged that actions carried out in the course of armed conflict were comprehensively, and more appropriately, covered by the existing body of international law dealing with such conflicts. The proposal concerning an exemption for military forces in the exercise of their official duties had, however, proved more difficult to accept. Unfortunately, owing to a lack of time, the differences could not be resolved in the Working Group. For that reason, it had not been deemed appropriate to submit a text of article 3. He hoped that the current discussions would shortly lead to the submission to the General Assembly of a recommendation in that connection, since all delegations understood the substance of the draft convention, as well as the need to maintain a balance between different political concerns and the demands of different legal systems.

6. **Mr. Díaz** (Costa Rica) said that his country was opposed to all forms of terrorist attacks, wherever and by whomsoever they were committed. For that reason, his delegation would welcome the adoption at the current session of the draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings. In order to find a solution acceptable to all, his delegation had prepared a draft of article 3 which would be made available to all those delegations that wished to consider it.

7. **Mr. Hamdan** (Lebanon) sought clarification on the statement of the representative of Canada.

8. **Mr. Verweij** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associate countries of Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia, and, in addition, Iceland and Norway, said that those countries unequivocally condemned terrorism, and had taken a great number of measures to combat that criminal phenomenon.

9. All the States members of the European Union were parties to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, adopted in 1977 within the framework of the Council of Europe. More recently, in 1996, an agreement had been concluded within the European Union in relation to extradition between member States. The European Union also continued to collaborate and coordinate activities with other States or groups of States, including the United States of America within the framework of the transatlantic dialogue. It had also actively contributed to measures to combat terrorism both within and outside the United Nations. In that regard, he recalled the previous year's debate in the Sixth Committee and the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 49/60, annex). It was evident that no single nation or group of nations would be able to win the battle against international terrorism on its own. The European Union therefore valued the continued consideration of that issue in the United Nations and had actively participated in the negotiations on the drafting of an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings.

10. In only four weeks of intensive negotiations, satisfactory results had been achieved; unfortunately, the issue of the non-applicability of the Convention to military activities had not been resolved and it was to be hoped that constructive discussion would continue on that issue.

11. The current draft was a major step forward, since the offences it covered had been carefully defined and the fundamental principle *aut dedere, aut judicare* would ensure that those who committed such offences were brought to justice.

12. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/52/304), the European Union was grateful to those States which had submitted information regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism and on incidents caused by international terrorism; the information supplied by international organizations was also very helpful, in particular the report of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) according to which the number of incidents of

unlawful interference with civil aviation was declining in the 1990s. Other activities worth mentioning were the workshops and training courses organized by ICAO and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, which was carrying out useful work in the dissemination of information on new forms of terrorism. The European Union hoped that a compendium of national laws and regulations on the subject would be published soon and associated itself with the request by the Secretariat for States to submit information on their national laws and regulations.

13. The European Union had carefully studied the status of the 13 international conventions pertaining to international terrorism and had noted that many States had not yet signed or ratified them; it therefore called on all States to accede to all those instruments so as to close the legal net around terrorists.

14. **Mr. Saguier Caballero** (Paraguay), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that at the eleventh summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, the countries had reaffirmed the common principles and objectives of ensuring peace and the common good, safeguarding representative democracy and building a joint future on the basis of cooperation, respect for sovereignty, self-determination and the legal equality of States.

15. At the regional level, judicial cooperation had been strengthened against terrorism, drug-trafficking, arms trafficking and other illegal activities through the implementation of new bilateral and multilateral instruments of mutual assistance and the exchange of information. The Rio Group believed that international terrorism was a threat to the peace and development of the peoples, and had therefore included it in the Asunción Declaration as a priority subject.

16. The intensification of international cooperation based on full respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations was the best course for making a concerted and effective response to the terrorist threat. The Rio Group therefore supported all measures designed to strengthen the legal framework in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/60 and 51/210 and other documents such as the Lima Declaration and the Asunción Declaration.

17. He stressed the support provided by the Rio Group to the establishment of an ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings. It was regrettable that the ad hoc committee, later constituted as a working group, had not been able to send to the Committee the final text of the draft convention, which would supplement the existing mechanisms of legal cooperation and assistance.

18. Asylum was a humanitarian institution which was rooted in Latin American practice. The Rio Group therefore feared that some terrorists might try to take advantage of that noble institution in an attempt to avoid their criminal responsibility, and affirmed that those who committed criminal acts for political purposes, spreading terror among the population, must be punished to the full extent of the law.

19. The Rio Group was aware that international terrorism gravely disrupted public security and terrorized the civilian population; therefore, inspired by the principles and objectives of the Asunción Declaration, it had made a firm commitment to establish appropriate mechanisms to eliminate that threat throughout the world.

20. **Mr. Owada** (Japan) said that the occupation of the residence of the Japanese Ambassador in Peru and the taking of hostages by a group of terrorists in 1996 had reinforced Japan's resolve to combat terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in that effort.

21. The report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/52/304) referred to some measures adopted by Japan to improve the effectiveness of its fight against terrorism. In December 1996, an international seminar on the issue had been held in Japan in which 11 countries of the Asia and Pacific region had participated; that event had been followed by a conference organized in October 1997, in conjunction with ASEAN, in which all the members of ASEAN had participated. More than 10 international conventions relating to terrorism had been adopted; Japan appealed to those countries which had not yet done so to accede to them as soon as possible, so as to make them truly effective; Japan intended to become a party to all the conventions by the end of the year 2000.

22. His Government had also taken an active part in the deliberations on the draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and found it unfortunate that the issue of its application to the activities of military forces had made it impossible for the convention to reach the stage of adoption. It understood that certain delegations felt that some of the proposals could create the impression that the convention condoned otherwise unlawful conduct by a State or its military forces. However, under general international law, foreign military forces enjoyed judicial immunity, and the convention should not apply to the activities of the military forces of a State undertaken in the exercise of their official duties. His delegation hoped that differences of views could be reconciled so that that important convention could be promptly finalized and adopted by consensus.

23. Over the past 12 months various international organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, had held workshops and seminars on combatting terrorism. Those activities were very useful and, by facilitating the exchange of information, helped promote the fight against international terrorism.

24. Lastly, Japan believed that the publication of a compendium of national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism would be useful for States in their efforts to combat that scourge. It had therefore submitted to the United Nations copies of its laws and regulations in that field and appealed to States which had not yet done so to do likewise as soon as possible.

25. **Mr. Sylla** (Mali) said that terrorist acts were on the rise throughout the world, and Africa was no exception. At the national level, the Government of Mali had adopted laws and regulations on crimes related to terrorism, such as arms and drug trafficking, and money-laundering. At the regional level, it had signed various instruments on the same subject as part of the regional integration process. At the international level, Mali had acceded to various conventions, including conventions on terrorism in aircraft and airports, the taking of hostages, and psychotropic substances.

26. The international community must coordinate its strategies and unite its efforts, respecting the cultural values of each State, in order to combat terrorism, violence and economic and environmental crimes. It was necessary for the international community to adopt a consensus definition of terrorism so that Governments could prevent, combat and eliminate it.

27. **Mr. Al-Ajlan** (Saudi Arabia) said that, with a view to implementing the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and of the norms of international law, Saudi Arabia had signed and ratified a number of regional and international treaties dealing with terrorism. In that regard, his delegation commended the Sixth Committee, whose efforts to formulate a legal basis for the fight against terrorism would affect the entire international community.

28. Saudi Arabia condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supported the proposals on a draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, particularly the proposals relating to the inclusion of the concepts of international humanitarian law in the draft articles. It was necessary to come up with a formula acceptable to all, one that would encourage countries to accede to the convention.

29. Terrorism as an international phenomenon did not have its origin in any particular religion. Islam was a religion that

embodied the concept of human rights. There was a need for concerted efforts at the international level, bearing in mind the interests of small States that did not have the technology or means to combat certain forms of terrorism. In that regard, his delegation wished to point out that some countries were acquiring deadly weapons in quantities that exceeded their security needs, thereby endangering the stability of the region and flouting the international community's aspirations for security and stability.

30. **Mr. Chimimba** (Malawi) reiterated Malawi's unequivocal condemnation of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed its continued commitment to combat that scourge. As was clear from the Secretary-General's report (A/52/304), Malawi was a party to most of the multilateral instruments related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. In 1972, Malawi had passed the Hijacking Act, which gave domestic effect to the three main instruments on the subject; the Act also specified a series of unlawful acts against water and land transport. All the offences under the Act were extraditable, and the maximum punishment was life imprisonment. Moreover, Malawi invariably sought robust aviation security provisions for all bilateral air services agreements, and all its partners had agreed to those provisions in their desire to enhance international cooperation in that area.

31. The 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism and the 1996 Declaration to supplement it were important initiatives that had been adopted in recent years, which focused on practical aspects of international cooperation to combat terrorism. In that regard, Malawi had participated in the negotiations on a convention on the suppression of terrorist bombings, and it was satisfied with the outcome, in spite of the disagreements on article 3.

32. With regard to the draft under consideration, Malawi would have preferred more elaborate provisions on the subject matter of the convention. In its view, the current wording of article 2 did not seem to go far enough to solve the problem. Moreover, it would have been useful to include a provision on the possibility of trying crimes under the convention by an international tribunal. The failure to establish international jurisdiction, with a provision as a minimum similar to that contained in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, was one of the weaknesses of the draft. Those aspects should be taken into account in future instruments.

33. His delegation remained convinced that article 3 should not be a stumbling block to the adoption of that important

instrument, and extra efforts should be made to ensure that the draft convention in its entirety captured the language of General Assembly resolution 51/210, namely that all acts, methods and practices of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Malawi looked forward to the early conclusion of that important instrument.

34. **Mr. Chang Beom Cho** (Republic of Korea) said that the Secretary-General's report would help strengthen international cooperation to prevent and suppress terrorism, and his delegation hoped that a compendium of national laws and regulations for that purpose could soon be produced.

35. The Republic of Korea deeply deplored the escalation of international terrorism and strongly condemned that phenomenon in all its forms, recalling the many acts of terrorism that it had experienced and the fact that terrorism was still a constant threat to the Republic of Korea. In the current age of globalization, terrorism did not respect national borders, and no State was immune from its scourge. Terrorism posed a serious threat to the security, stability and development of the global community, and it was a problem that could not be solved by any one State on its own. Only international cooperation could prevent it. That was why his delegation attached great importance to the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism and the 1996 Declaration to supplement it.

36. One of the surest ways of eliminating international terrorism was to bring all terrorist offenders to justice for their crimes. In that regard, it was important to secure the universality of the current international legal regime related to terrorism. The Republic of Korea had acceded to seven conventions and was favourably considering the possibility of acceding to three others, and it encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to follow its example as soon as possible.

37. His delegation was pleased to note that the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group had made significant progress in drafting the complete text of the convention on the suppression of terrorist bombings, with the exception of one article. That reflected the international community's firm will to create an effective legal regime to curb that kind of terrorist attack.

38. In spite of some ambiguities that might arise as a result of the compromise, his delegation supported the overall thrust of the draft convention. The draft contained some innovative measures that would contribute to the progressive development of international criminal law, including the depoliticization clause, the extradition waiver in the case of discriminatory prosecution or punishment, conditional

extradition and the transfer of detained persons for investigation or prosecution purposes.

39. Once adopted, the draft convention would be the eleventh international legal instrument on international terrorism, sponsored by the United Nations system. The Republic of Korea firmly believed that the adoption of the convention would help fill the gaps in the current legal regime, which had provided terrorists with escapes and safe havens. The prevalence of terrorist bombings in many parts of the world made the speedy conclusion of the convention indispensable. His delegation sincerely hoped that, during the current session, the Sixth Committee would be able to agree on a workable formula for article 3.

40. In fact article 3 was a matter of legal policy, as it related to the scope of the Convention. The exclusion of certain activities did not imply either their legality or their impunity; the key question was which corpus of international law should govern activities of military forces in time of peace: the Convention, or other rules of international law. His delegation hoped that a middle ground could be found so that all concerns could be satisfactorily addressed.

41. The increased danger since the end of the cold war that terrorists might acquire nuclear materials underlined the urgent need to prepare an international instrument to suppress acts of nuclear terrorism. His delegation was prepared to participate actively in the discussion on the draft convention on nuclear terrorism, submitted by the Russian Federation.

42. Lastly, the Republic of Korea reaffirmed its firm commitment to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism, and its determination to cooperate closely with the international community to that end.

43. **Mr. Tahir** (Brunei Darussalam) condemned terrorism in all its manifestations, and said that accession to international agreements on the prevention of international terrorism and their implementation were crucial to efforts to eliminate it. Brunei Darussalam had embarked on various programmes to upgrade security at international points of entry and was currently undertaking both technical and legal measures in that regard.

44. He welcomed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group. His delegation's continuing presence in both bodies was further testimony to its commitment to support the efforts of the international community to fight international terrorism. He recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/210, paragraph 1, had strongly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Any attempt to legitimize actions of

a State using force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a Government, members of the public or a section thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives, was unacceptable. Therefore his delegation associated itself with those countries which were in favour of a convention covering all forms of terrorism in all its forms, by whomsoever committed, and reiterated the need in defining the scope of the criminal provisions of the draft Convention, for observance of the general principle of criminal law that both the element of *actus reus* and of *mens rea* must exist, so that there would be no room for confusion when the Convention was adopted at the municipal level.

45. His delegation would be participating in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to establish a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism, as well as in the elaboration of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 51/210. In connection with the legal framework of conventions, further areas could be explored. The development of technology had provided terrorists with greater cross-border mobility and placed sophisticated means of achieving their ends at their disposal. The Internet, for example, could be a source of information for terrorists or a target for their attacks. The international community must stay one step ahead of the terrorists, by countering their acts before they were carried out.

46. Another solution would be to establish norms that would prevent terrorists from seeking refuge or establishing "safe havens", and that would provide for the confiscation of assets belonging to terrorists or their organizations. Only collective efforts could combat terrorist bombings, extortion, money laundering, the illegal arms trade and the abuse of modern information technology, all of which were inextricably linked.

47. Brunei Darussalam viewed favourably the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and would continue to provide the information requested by the Secretary-General on national measures to prevent and suppress international terrorism, and to support his efforts to publish a compendium of national laws and regulations. In that respect Brunei Darussalam had incorporated in its national legislation the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 December 1973, bringing to five the number of international conventions relating to terrorism that were legally enforceable in the country. Brunei Darussalam would continue to study the other

relevant international conventions with a view to acceding to them in due course.

48. **Mr. Preda** (Romania) said that his delegation endorsed the statement made by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union, and welcomed the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the report of the working group entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" (A/C.6/52/L.3), which would provide useful information for the Committee's deliberations.

49. Romania expressed its solidarity with the victims of terrorism, which it repudiated in all its manifestations as always unjustifiable, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. Romania reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the letter and spirit of the international conventions relating to various aspects of terrorism and expressed its willingness to actively join international efforts to curb international terrorism, including bombings and acts of nuclear terrorism.

50. Fully aware of the consequences of terrorist acts, Romania had ratified practically all the conventions concluded to date on the matter. His delegation was fully convinced that it was possible to improve cooperation in that field, in particular through the exchange of the information necessary to prevent terrorist acts and the apprehension and prosecution, and even extradition, of the perpetrators of such acts. In connection with the latter aspect, he made mention of the declaration on the fight against organized crime, illegal trafficking in small arms and narcotic drugs and terrorism, adopted on 3 October 1997 at Varna by the Presidents of Bulgaria, Turkey and Romania. The extradition of those guilty of an act of terrorism to the State where the crime was committed would solve the problem at the international level despite the limitations of the principle of territoriality.

51. Terrorism was now being facilitated by the rapid development of communications, mass transportation and technology. Accordingly, those States which had not yet done so should become party to the relevant international conventions. The emphasis should be placed on educating public opinion through the mass media in order to prevent and combat terrorism. Romania was conscious of the role to be played by the United Nations in, *inter alia*, promoting public awareness of the consequences of terrorism, and was confident that the authoritative voice of the Organization would contribute to the adoption of measures in the interest of all States. As the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs had recently stated before the General Assembly, the United Nations should involve itself actively in the dismantling of terrorist infrastructures throughout the world. At the same time, it was necessary to promote the adoption of direct

measures by the interested parties, discreetly, and without recourse to spectacular gestures.

52. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that acts of terrorism continued to increase worldwide, destabilizing societies, and bringing death and destruction to civilian life and property. For Sri Lanka it was not a question of legal semantics, but of life and death. The democratic polity cherished by the people of Sri Lanka for the last 50 years had come under severe stress as a result of continuing acts of terrorism by groups who believed in its use to attain their ends. The United Nations should send a message without further delay, through the adoption of legal norms, that resorting to terrorism against unarmed civilians, for any purpose, was morally repugnant and legally unacceptable.

53. The adoption the year before by consensus of General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the annexed Declaration was a landmark in the Organization's work in that regard. His delegation had cooperated with others to create, through those instruments, an effective framework on the basis of which the international community could take effective action to combat terrorism with a renewed sense of responsibility and urgency.

54. Terrorists were taking advantage of the vulnerability of public buildings and transport and information systems, and international cooperation was needed to protect those targets from attack. Resolution 51/210 noted that terrorist attacks by means of bombs, explosives or other incendiary or lethal devices had become increasingly widespread and stressed the need to supplement the existing legal instruments in order to address specifically the problems of terrorist attacks carried out against such objectives. His delegation welcomed the considerable progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for drafting an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings; as a result of the broad agreement achieved in the Working Group, the text of the convention was on the verge of completion. The draft convention was structured on the recognized principles of universal jurisdiction, and its purpose was to ensure that terrorists who targeted public buildings and facilities, including public transport systems, would enjoy no safe haven abroad. It underlined the total prohibition of the indiscriminate use of terror against innocent civilians and emphasized the principle that, whatever the motivation for such acts, they were not justifiable under any circumstances. It was the view of his delegation that the text contained in the report of the Working Group represented a delicate balance, and it welcomed the continuing consultations to achieve consensus. The time had come to demonstrate a spirit of compromise, and his delegation strongly supported the adoption of the draft convention at the current session.

55. Another critical issue was the international movement of funds, which facilitated terrorist activities. The international community was increasingly concerned with that question and had recognized the need to pursue measures to deprive terrorists of their sources of financing. It was recognized that terrorists used front organizations, some ostensibly with charitable, social or cultural goals, as a cover for fund-raising activities. States must investigate such abuses and adopt regulatory measures to prevent the movement of such funds. It was essential that Member States should share information to expose the links between fund raising and terrorist activities, in particular through money laundering. The initiative to investigate lay primarily with the countries in which front organizations were maintained. Sri Lanka had begun a process of formulating a comprehensive legislative framework to counter serious international crimes, in particular, terrorist fund-raising. Proposed legislation in respect of money laundering focused, in particular, on offences relating to terrorism and drug trafficking, including those covered by the conventions to which Sri Lanka was a party. Those national measures could only be effective if they were supported by bilateral and multilateral measures.

56. Resolution 51/210 and the Declaration annexed thereto also addressed the issue of the use of electronic or wire communications systems or networks by terrorists to carry out criminal acts, and emphasized the need to prevent such criminality through enhanced bilateral cooperation. His delegation believed that regulatory controls were therefore necessary to prevent the abuse of the Internet by terrorist groups to solicit funds or, in general, to commit technical sabotage.

57. The Declaration also dealt with the important question of the abuse of refugee status by supporters and sympathizers of terrorists groups resident abroad. There was a clear relationship between the collection of funds by terrorist groups in foreign countries and organized trafficking in asylum-seekers. Such a distortion of a system of protection that had been devised with purely humanitarian objectives was unacceptable. As stated in the Declaration, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees did not provide a basis for the protection of the perpetrators of terrorists acts, and States had an obligation, before granting refugee status, to ensure that an asylum-seeker had not participated in terrorist acts and, once that status had been granted, that it was not used for the purpose of preparing or organizing terrorists acts against States. His Government had entered into bilateral arrangements with other States for the orderly return of rejected asylum-seekers and was currently amending its immigration laws to combat organized trafficking in persons.

58. The principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the Declaration annexed thereto had contributed to the creation of a comprehensive legal framework for international cooperation in combatting terrorism. What was needed now was the political will to translate those principles into concrete action. Terrorism was a major cause of destabilization of sovereign States. It knew no frontiers, and no State, no matter how secure it might feel, could tolerate it. Unless the international community undertook a coordinated and determined effort to deal with the problem and its ramifications, terrorism would continue to be a principal source of insecurity and instability among nations.

Agenda item 148: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirtieth session (*continued*) (A/C.6/52/L.6 and Corr.1, and L.7 and Corr.1)

59. **Mrs. Sucharipa** (Austria) introduced draft resolution A/C.6/52/L.6 and Corr.1 and said that Iceland, Jamaica and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined the sponsors. The draft was based on the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) (A/52/17) and was similar to the resolution adopted the previous year. She drew attention to the new paragraph 4 of the resolution, in view of the importance to UNCITRAL of replies from States.

60. In order to bring the text of paragraph 5 into line with the wording of paragraph 284 of the report of the Commission, in the English version the word "Governments" should be replaced by "States" and, at the end of the paragraph, the phrase "from the private sector" should be added.

61. **Mr. Tarasenko** (Russian Federation) said that, in the Russian version of paragraph 5, in the phrase "work with the private foundation", the word "b" should be replaced by "c".

62. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended.

63. *Draft resolution A/C.6/52/L.6 and Corr.1, as orally amended, was adopted.*

64. **Mrs. Sucharipa** (Austria) introduced draft resolution A/C.6/52/L.7 and Corr.1.

65. **Mr. Kawamura** (Japan) and **Ms. Giraldo** (Colombia) said that Japan and Colombia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

66. **Ms. Gao Yanying** (China) said that there were some errors in the Chinese translation of the text of which she would inform the Secretariat in writing.

67. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.

68. *Draft resolution A/C.6/52/L.7 and Corr.1 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.