Statement of H.E. Archbishop Bernardito Auza
Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations
Sixth Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly
Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

New York, 14 October 2015

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the bureau on your election and assure you of my delegation's firm commitment to engage constructively in the work of the Sixth Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly.

While there remain some substantive disagreements on a "comprehensive definition of terrorism," Article 2, paragraph 1.b, of the

cultural or ethnic groups, and even members of the majority religion, who have no desire to be caught up in hatred and folly, have been forced to witness the destruction of their places of worship, their cultural and religious heritage, their houses and property, and have faced the alternative either of fleeing or of paying for their adhesion to good and to peace by their own lives, or by enslavement." Then he added, "These realities should serve as a grave summons to an examination of conscience on the part of those charged with the conduct of international affairs."

The Holy See is convinced that the fight against international and all forms of terrorism cannot be won solely by recourse to the most sophisticated weapons. In any policy and measure against international terrorism, it is essential to uphold the rule of law, adhere strictly to the UN Charter and to international law, and respect fundamental human rights. An arbitrary application of unilateral measures, a selective approach to human rights and a disregard for cultures and religions cannot win hearts and minds. Such actions come across as brazen demonstrations of superiority and deliberate acts of provocation, thereby increasing feelings of victimization among populations, especially among young people.

We must also address the underlying causes of terrorism. We must dry up the swamps where terrorism breeds: by education and mutual respect, by perseverance in dialogue at all
levels, by the rule of law and good governance, by engaging entire local communities most at
risk of radicalization and achieving their satisfactory social integration, by creating job opportunities especially for the young who are susceptible to terrorist propaganda. We must strengthen preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts to promote peaceful societies and inclusive institutions.

The Holy See expresses its concern.05 Tc 12.8055 0 0 12.7 490.77 402n76 Tm (conce.4557

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