

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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البعثة الجزائرية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by

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of Algeria to the United Nations**

on

Preventing Violent Extremism

Before

The General Assembly

New York, 16 February 2016

**Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this important and timely debate to consider the Secretary General's Plan of Action on preventing violent extremism.

A comprehensive plan of action for preventing violent extremism could provide a coherent response to the increasing threat of violent extremism all over the world. In this regard, my delegation would like to reiterate its deep appreciation to the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for his outstanding efforts in the field of counter terrorism and combatting violent extremism. We welcome the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution on the Plan of Action and look forward to the next steps.

Mr. President,

Algeria would like to reiterate its strong and unequivocal condemnation of all forms of terrorism, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever they are committed. Algeria reiterates also its determination to continue its combat against terrorism and violent extremism.

Let me say few other comments:

The struggle against violent extremism and terrorism must also include the rejection against xenophobia and Islamophobia, which are emerging as the new faces of violent extremism.

Algeria strongly believes that preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism require a high level of vigilance, mobilization and multifaceted cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. Efforts aiming at preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism cannot be limited exclusively to repressive dimension, but need to be deployed, in upstream and downstream, with a coherent political strategy based on prevention, dialogue and understanding of the attraction exerted by the terrorists.

My delegation stresses the need to agree upon an accurate definition of terrorism. Such definition should be in line with the United Nations Charter and the International Law, and should avoid any confusion between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation to achieve their inalienable rights to self-determination and to peace.

Equally, we will continue to warn against all misconceptions and the tendentious association of terrorism with a religion, a civilization, or a geographical area.

Mr. President,

I would like to make some other comments on the recommendations that are contained in the Plan.

With regard to the recommendation on developing national Plans of Action to prevent violent extremism, I would like to reaffirm that preventing and combating violent extremism constitute a priority for my country. I am pleased here to announce that this very priority was since just last week enshrined in the Constitution that was amended on 4th February 2016.

I am equally pleased to announce that my country Algeria has developed a comprehensive multidimensional plan of action on preventing violent extremism and de-radicalisation.

This Plan of action had been initiated on the occasion of the celebration, last September, of the tenth anniversary of the adoption by referendum of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation in Algeria. This initiative was approved by an overwhelming majority of the Algerian people responding to the call of our President, President BOUTEFLIKA, and I quote Him saying that we have to "forgive without forgetting, and to look resolutely to the future and reinvent a new way of living together in an Algeria that is increasingly prosperous."

The Algerian strategy for combating violent extremism is based on two main areas:

First, the maintenance of a high level of mobilization and vigilance by all security forces in the conduct of their mission to protect public order and the safety of people and property.

Second, the implementation of a comprehensive de-radicalization policy that combines political, economic, social, cultural, and religious measures involving all institutions and citizens, mobilizing important national resources.

On regional and international cooperation, Algeria firmly believes that, as with the fight against terrorism, Prevention and the fight against violent extremism and the country's efforts toward de-radicalization also require greater attention, and must be the subject of sustained bilateral, regional, and international cooperation.

To mention but a few examples, Algeria hosted, in July 2015, the International Conference on the fight against extremism and de-radicalization. The Conference offered an opportunity for my country to share its experience with the participants, including those directly involved in the fight against extremism and radicalization.

Algeria's efforts to combat terrorism were always aimed at increasing regional and international cooperation even before the manifestation of major acts of international terrorism that the world has known. Algeria has sought from the beginning to strengthen efforts against terrorism at the African level and as a result, many international instruments and initiatives have emerged and are playing today a very important role in enhancing the effectiveness of the African efforts in that regard.

In the Sahel region, the concept of coordination and cooperation finds its full potential. In view of the prevailing situation which requires both coordination and strengthening the capacities of the countries of the region on the basis of the principle of ownership, Algeria has engaged in a concerted approach through many mechanisms of cooperation, such as the Countries of the Field, the working Group on the Sahel co-chaired by Algeria and Canada under the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Joint Operational General Staff Committee (CEMOC), the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), for mainly sharing intelligence, and many other Foras which remain of a great contribution to facilitate the deepening of security cooperation between the concerned countries.

Mr. President,

A comprehensive approach to prevent violent extremism should be based on a comprehensive and objective assessment of the root causes of this phenomenon.

We believe that the Plan of Action can constitute a sound basis for our consideration of the subject. My delegation stands ready to engage constructively in the consideration of the Plan of action in all relevant foras.

I thank you.