



STATEMENT BY AMB. RAYCHELLE OMAMO, SC, EGH

CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DURING

**THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING
ON
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
1373 (2020) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNTER
TERRORISM COMMITTEE: ACHIEVEMENTS IN
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

***(12 January 2021, 08.30 AM US Eastern Time – 16:30 PM
Kenya time)***

1. The Kenya delegation thanks the delegation of Tunisia for the invitation and for convening this important debate.
2. Mr. President, as I address the Security Council for the first time, I commend Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Ms. Michèle Coninsx and Ms. Fatima Akilu for their informative briefings.
3. Terrorism, in all its forms, remains a leading challenge to the global order and human security on every continent. Kenya stands in solidarity with all countries, communities and families that have been attacked by terrorists.
4. This meeting comes at a time when the Jihadist terrorist threat in Africa is acute. ISIS is regrouping and seeking safe havens in Africa's conflict zones. Additionally, Al-Qa'ida has dedicated affiliates and an extensive transnational network in Africa. The recent horrific attack in Niger illustrates this.
5. The existential threat of terrorism in Africa is rapidly evolving. Terrorism exacerbates state fragility and increases the vulnerability of communities because terrorism conflates with other pervasive challenges such as poverty, climate change, youth unemployment, forced migration, arms trafficking as well as growing cyber and transnational organized crime. This toxic cocktail of insecurity not only threatens global peace and stability but can potentially reverse the hard-won development gains made on the continent to the detriment of our people.
6. In Somalia, Al-Shabaab, a declared and compliant affiliate of al-Qa'ida remains a grave threat not only within that country and the Horn of Africa region but also beyond the African continent. For instance, this past December 16th, a New York Court indicted an Al-Shabaab operative for conspiring to conduct an egregious attack in the United States.
7. This indictment is a potent reminder to states that al-Qa'ida affiliates remain threats to global peace and security. They should be met with the full force of Resolution 1373 and associated instruments such as Resolution 1267.
8. The surge in terrorism this last decade is testament to what happens when we, as members of the Security Council underestimate the ambitions of terrorists. That is why Kenya supports the full utilization of sanctions against al-Qa'ida and its affiliates wherever they are found.
9. As a frontline state in the global war against terrorist groups, Kenya is taking decisive action. The Government last September froze the assets of nine individuals associated with financing Al-Shabaab operations.

10. This was our latest endeavor in the implementation of every measure called for in Resolution 1373. We continue to strengthen our compliance with Resolution 1373 by including its operative elements in our national Counter Terrorism Strategy.
11. Kenya believes that the implementation of Resolution 1373 is a minimum requirement to be a member of the International Community in good standing. We urge all states, particularly those that have al-Qa'ida or ISIS affiliates or splinter groups based in their territories, to prioritize implementing Resolution 1373. We also urge the Counter Terrorism Committee to take stringent action to ensure that countries that have terrorist groups operating out of their territories are in compliance with Resolution 1373.
12. These measures should include the Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate and the UN Office of Counter Terrorism closely monitoring progress and assisting in capacity building. With regard to the latter aim, Kenya commends UNOCT for establishing a programme in Nairobi to serve as a regional hub to enhance counter-terrorism and terrorism prevention through capacity building as well as enhanced intelligence and information sharing.
13. Excellencies, as I close, I urge all of us to honestly acknowledge that global consensus against terrorism is not as strong today as it was during the issuing of Resolution 1373 and that this places Africa at great risk. Counter terrorism is increasingly held hostage to geopolitics even as citizens in many countries are subjected to brutal attacks. The terrorists, particularly those affiliated to al-Qa'ida or ISIS seem to be encouraged by our flagging unity.
14. Let us use this anniversary to close ranks for the sake of our citizens, our economies, and global peace and security. We can start by taking tough united measures that reflect the spirit and letter of Resolution 1373 against terrorist groups. We should surge capacity building worldwide, particularly in frontline states in Africa.
15. We should aggressively tackle the kinetic threat of terrorists groups, while also ensuring that they do not permeate and dislocate the social fabric of our societies through the radicalization and recruitment of a new generation of militants, particularly through the exploitation of the opportunities availed by technology and the Internet. Indeed, the challenge of 'cyber-driven radicalization' should be a matter of grave concern to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.
16. I conclude by reaffirming Kenya's resolve to do its utmost, in concert with other members of the Security Council, to combat the threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Thank you for your kind attention.