

**Statement**  
**by**  
**H. E. Mr. Ali Asghar Soltanieh**  
**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the**  
**Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**Before the**  
**Symposium on Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations**  
**Global Counter Terrorism Strategy**  
**On Theme 3: “Enhancing Measures to Prevent and Combat Terrorism”**  
**Vienna, 17 May 2007**

**In the Name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**At the outset, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to Government of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for organizing this very important symposium on Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**The international community is at a decisive juncture of its counter terrorism history, as it confronts new challenges and threats of different nature against the innocent lives of people from different cultures and religions worldwide. The international debate on counter terrorism strategy is expected to assume new dimensions and new direction as a result of the ongoing efforts which has now led to the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006. We all gathered here in Vienna to combine our wisdom and mobilize our abilities for the implementation of this Strategy. I referred to the current state of affairs as a decisive juncture because the wrong diagnosis of the strengths and weaknesses of the past and present and the erroneous analysis of what**

**the international community should undertake to make a difference in future, will indeed take us back to a situation where we will be left again with the same malaise we faced on counter terrorism measures over the past years.**

**Clearly, the United Nations made considerable progress in the field of both standard-setting and implementation of counter terrorism measures. Despite all these efforts and activities, unfortunately we have witnessed the escalation of terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, particularly in the regions where terrorism and ethnic and armed conflicts are linked together and have become the main threats of our time against international peace and security. These evil challenges along with narcotic drugs and arms smuggling has gone beyond the geographical borders and imperil the security and safety of all our citizens and nations and hampers the economic progress and the democratic processes in our societies.**

**The Islamic Republic of Iran, for its part, has fought a costly war against heavily armed drug traffickers and terrorist groups costing the loss of thousands of lives of innocent civilians and law enforcement officials fell victim of the blind terrorist and smugglers operations in the last decades. We are determined to continue forcefully this fight against narcotic drugs which has its impact to cut the financing of terrorism as well. Here, I would like to make a particular reference to some terrorist groups such as MKO, which has long been harbored by Saddam Hussein and fully supported by some Western countries and has carried out terrorist operations in and outside Iran. This kind of double double-standards approach is in contravention of the obligations of member states under the UN resolutions.**

**The fight against terrorism, requires a comprehensive approach. The genuine fight against terrorism relies very much on how we identify the root causes of terrorism. Foreign occupation, exclusion, double standard, selectivity and certain hegemonistic and expansionist economic and political policies create conditions conducive to the spread of violent acts and terrorism.**

**State terrorism is a form of terrorism which by itself put the global and common measures in combating terrorism in jeopardy. Massive bombardment of a populated area, massacring innocent people**

**including children under the pretext of combating terrorism has to be stopped by international community.**

**The legitimate struggle for liberation of nations under foreign occupation could not be overlooked under the cloak of fighting terrorism, otherwise this would add to the risk of escalation of violent acts. We should continue our efforts towards achieving an internationally agreed definition of terrorism which shall be differentiated from the legitimate struggle and resistance of peoples under foreign occupation.**

**The rather failed experience of certain powerful states in their superficial, disproportionate, unreasonable and selective approaches in dealing with these challenges and threats has not helped to curtail this threat; rather it has added new dimensions to violence. Worse than that some attempts are made to relate terrorism to a particular religion or culture. This is a wrong approach in the fights against terrorism and the worst form of injustice towards the divine religions and their teachings. We need to correct these misperceptions about religions. Furthermore, incitement of discord among religions and hatred against people of a different creed, race or nation is dangerous and inadmissible. We need to strengthen mutual respect among peoples of different cultures, traditions and religions, placing particular emphasis on Western-Muslim dialogue and relationship. Interfaith, inter-religion and Intercultural dialogue can help finding positive responses to the challenges posed by terrorism.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**The best way to ensure that we are moving in the right direction is to bring back all our efforts in the fight against terrorism within the UN system. The fight against terrorism requires the serious will and participation of all nations under the leadership and auspices of the United Nations and in conformity with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Combating terrorism must also be consistent with the rule of law, respect for human rights and humanitarian law. Extraordinary rendition, setting up secret prisons, long term incommunicado and arbitrary detention and inhumane torturing of alleged terrorist elements goes against the very principles of human rights and humanitarian law that we should all respect and**

**adhere to them. These violations not only do not mitigate terrorism, but provokes more violence and terrorist acts. Furthermore, we should not allow unilateral actions, double standards or arbitrary judgment based on political grounds when interpreting acts and manifestations of terrorism. The experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has shown that eradication of extremism and terrorism can not be achieved through unilateral use of military force.**

**With regard to standard setting on terrorism prevention, I would like to emphasize this task should be only the delegated to the General Assembly and its related bodies. Expressing concern about the instrumental use of the Security Council for political motivation, this Organ should avoid encroaching on the tasks and duties of the General Assembly.**

**With the continuation of dialogue and encouraging the cooperation among members of the international community, we can prepare the ground for common understanding on the tools at our hands and the ways and means of dealing with the challenges we face.**

**I thank your very much for your kind attention.**

-----

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.