

Mr. President,

Allow me to thank you for calling this informative meeting on Committees 1267, 1373 and 1540 and in this regard we appreciate the presentations given by Ambassadors Gerad Von Boheme, Raimonda Murmokaite and Román Oyarzún as the respective Chairpersons of these subsidiary bodies. We would also like to thank their work and leadership.

We thank you for the joint declaration of the Committees, read by Ambassador Román Oyarzún and salute the coordination of efforts between the working groups.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is convinced that the fight against terrorism must be conducted within the framework of international cooperation, in compliance with existing international and regional instruments in these matters, with the regulations of international law, and with full respect for the Sovereignty of States, human rights and fundamental liberties.

The actions of extreme violence perpetrated by terrorist groups in African and Middle Eastern countries have intensified. So much so that terrorism continues to pose serious threats to international peace and security. Therefore, it is necessary to implement measures that prohibit the financing, transfer of weapons and training of terrorist groups and non-state actors, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Venezuela reaffirms its strong rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which are a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights.

Our country wishes to reiterate its concern about the nature and operation of non-state actors as they constitute a permanent threat and source of violence and in most cases become terrorist groups.

This Security Council must take decisive measures to prevent the training, financing and supply of weaponry to non-state actors. Likewise, we regret that Resolution 2220 (2015) did not include an explicit prohibition of the transfer of weapons to non-state actors. We urge this Council to rectify this issue.

In the fight against terrorism we must act in a deeply political way. Over and above operations to combat the exponents, the international community should move towards overcoming the root causes of the crisis we are suffering. The humanitarian dramas in Syria, Yemen and Libya among other countries and the actions of Boko Haram, Al Qaeda, the al-Nusra Front and ISIS and their associated groups, requires the international community to provide systematic, decisive responses to neutralise this phenomenon.

Mr. President:

Regarding the work of Sanctions Committee 1267 on Al Qaeda and its associated entities, we consider that this organ represents a significant tool in the fight against terrorism. We echo the concern expressed by the Committee regarding the power and military capacity reached by the terrorist groups in their advance through Syria, Libya, Iraq and Yemen.

We wish to declare our concern for the unilateral action of some countries who, arguing that they are fighting against terrorism, undertake illegal actions of selective murders, arbitrary detentions and bombardments that often cause civilian casualties and are outside international law. The problem of terrorism must be combated from the perspective of multilateralism and in coordination with the States concerned.

On the other hand, we consider the role of the Ombudsperson particularly important because it facilitates due process. We hold the opinion that this mechanism should be consolidated in the interests of achieving greater transparency.

We thank Ms. Kimberley Prost for the independence and professionalism with which she has performed her job throughout her mandate. We hope that her successor is named soon.

Mr. President,

In recent months, Committee 1373 on counterterrorism has focused, with the help of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), on guaranteeing implementation of the provisions of Resolution 2178 (2014) relating to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and to identifying good practices and the difficulties faced by Member States in combatting this problem that currently reaches the figure of 25 thousand people, involving women and young people from at least 100 countries around the world.

Proof of this are the major reports issued by this Committee on the challenges faced in matters relating to the prosecution of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and effective border control of countries in conflict zones. The Special Meeting that the Committee held in Madrid on the 27th and 28th July 2015, about how to stem the flow of FTFs, constitutes a positive initiative that contributes to a comprehensive approach to this global problem.

Resolution 2178 represents a landmark in dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism, and we call for its effective implementation as it urges United Nations Member States to adopt a series of legal and political actions, in strict adherence with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, to stem the flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

Mr. President,

We equally consider necessary the full implementation of other resolutions relevant to this subject, such as Resolution 1373 (2001) that prohibits the financing of terrorist groups, or 1624 (2005) that prohibits incitement to terrorism. It would be important to conduct an assessment of the achievements reached, particularly this year, with the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1624 (2005) and the setting up of the CTED.

Mr. President

Regarding Committee 1540, on measures to prevent the acquisition of weapons by terrorist groups, Venezuela would like to draw attention to the comprehensive review process underway to evaluate the work done by this

subsidiary body since 2011, which will conclude in November 2016. We would like to make the following comments and recommendations on the subject: The Intergovernmental Conference with the participation of General Assembly Member States, which will be held in June 2016, should be understood as a fundamental component and its results must form part of the review. Regarding the review process itself, and as a general practice, the Committee needs to expand its communication activities within the main headquarters of the United Nations organisations responsible for disarmament, i.e. New York, Geneva and Vienna.

As a part of the review process, particular consideration should be given to the work of the Committee in the area of international aid and the transfer of technology. In this area, attention should be paid to ways of optimising the twinning of donor and recipient countries. The priorities of countries that request aid should be the basis for cooperation. In this sense, Venezuela remembers that years ago there was talk of the possibility of holding an International Conference to foster international aid and the transfer of technology within the scope of Committee 1540. We fully support this initiative and would like to know if this idea is still contemplated.

Finally, while recognising the importance of Resolution 1540 for the efforts aimed at preventing terrorist groups acquiring weapons of mass destruction, Venezuela, however, considers that the eradication and control of this type of war systems, in particular nuclear weapons, is the best guarantee to stop non-state actors having these instruments of destruction. We regret that the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TNP), held last May, has been hampered from adopting a final document due to the refusal of some countries to effect the commitment agreed in 1995 on a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.