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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

Terrorism and Human Rights

1. In its Note, A/HRC/49/67 the Secretariat presented the General Assembly resolution 74/147, in which: "the General Assembly strongly condemned all terrorist acts as criminal and unjustifiable, and expressed grave concern at their detrimental effects on the enjoyment of all human rights. It reaffirmed that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complied with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Human Rights Council and to the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session." The Secretariat referred the Council to the report of the Secretary-General on terrorism and human rights, submitted to the Assembly pursuant to that request".

2. In reference to all the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council on human rights and terrorism, the International Organization of the Least Developed Countries (IOLDCs) renews calls upon Member States to promote unwavering commitment to international cooperation in order to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, and stresses that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all Member States and relevant international and regional organizations.

3. Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism have an undeniably detrimental effect on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; impede the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights; and pose a threat to the territorial integrity and security of countries, the stability of Governments, the rule of law. Therefore, IOLDCs urges Member States to uphold the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, which reaffirm, inter alia, respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as being the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

4. Although the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, have expressed grave concern in relation to foreign terrorist fighters and the threat posed to all States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, IOLDCs additionally encourages Member States to address terrorist threats through enhanced cooperation and the development of mitigation not only to combat terrorism but to address the increased risk of foreign fighters flowing from the State of Libya to the several LDCs in the Sahel region, especially the Sahel region which has experienced a devastating surge in terrorist attacks against civilian and military targets.

5. Terrorist groups are present across borders and repeatedly target communities and national institutions through coordinated attacks, taking advantage of porous and extensive borders. Moreover, Boko Haram has links to the Islamic State and other extremist groups in the Sahel region, and remains a major security challenge for the countries of the Sahel region where the conflict in the north east has triggered a devastating humanitarian crisis affecting more than seven million people.

6. The Global Terrorism Index for 2020 showed that conflict is the main driver of terrorist activity in the ten countries most affected by terrorism, a category that includes the Republic of Yemen, where Ansar Allah, Al-Qaeda and ISIS are considered the deadliest terrorist groups for the fourth year in a row. 75% of deaths caused by terrorism, and 67% of total terrorist attacks, are primarily driven by the increase in Ansar Allah's violence.

7. The IOLDCs also reviewed reports received from victims and organizations which described grave violations, including attacks on homes by Ansar Allah militants, assassinations, kidnappings, use of car bombs, and planting thousands of mines and explosive devices. It was reported that women are particularly violated by the conflict and are deeply concerned about being further targeted. Some 1,300 girls and women detained in

Sana'a prisons are subject to sexual violence, rape, and sexual slavery by the Ansar Allah militants, and at least 35,000 children under the age of fifteen are recruited to participate in organized fighting in the Republic of Yemen.

8. Most recently, on 17th January 2022, terrorist activity has extended to Abu Dhabi, and was subsequently condemned by the UN Security Council, which stressed the need to hold the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these terrorist acts accountable and bring them to justice; urged all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under International law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to engage in effective cooperation with the United Arab Emirates and all other relevant authorities; and affirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any terrorist acts are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motives, wherever, and by whomever.

9. The Security Council previously on 14th January unanimously condemned the seizure by Ansar Allah of a cargo ship flying the United Arab Emirates flag in the Red Sea on 3rd January, and the detention of its crew. The Secretary-General of the United Nations also condemned the Ansar Allah attack on Abu Dhabi International Airport and the adjacent industrial zone, which targeted 8 million foreigners of more than 200 nationalities residing in the United Arab Emirates, as well as more than 60,000 passengers through Abu Dhabi International Airport daily. More than 140 countries and international organizations condemned the attack.

10. After the international coalition to combat terrorism since 2016, and benefiting from the efforts of the United Arab Emirates and the anti-terrorist forces of the Southern Transitional Council was able to eradicate al-Qaeda and ISIS elements from the southern regions; however, after the departure of the Emirati forces in 2019, the two terrorist groups were revived. Ansar Allah and the Muslim Brotherhood, groups previously started in conflict, built an alliance to revive al-Qaeda and ISIS elements and supported their terrorist attacks and assassinations in Aden, Abyan, Shabwa and Hadramawt with the aim of eliminating the forces of the Southern Transitional Council and controlling the southern regions .

11. Today, although law enforcement and military engagement have contributed to reducing the scale of acts of terrorism, these measures alone are not sufficient to permanently eradicate terrorism (General Assembly resolution 72/284, para. 9). Therefore, in order to take more effective measures for greater cooperation in the implementation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, the IOLDC requests the approval and adoption of the following recommendations:

I. Strongly condemns all terrorist acts as criminal and unjustifiable acts targeting local communities, individuals and governments, supported by resolution to include Ansar Allah and the Muslim Brotherhood in the list of terrorist organizations.

II. Emphasizes the important of Member States' commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and a balanced and integrated implementation of its four pillars, as adopted in its resolution 60/288, and at its sixth review, recognizing the need to redouble efforts for equal attention paid to, and implementation of, all the pillars of the strategy.

III. Urges Member States to take all thenecessary steps to ensure the right of anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and the entitlement to trial within a reasonable time or release.

IV. Urges Member States to ensure that measures taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are not discriminatory, and not to resort to profiling based on stereotypes founded on ethnic, racial or religious grounds or any other ground of discrimination prohibited by international law.

V. Calls on treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, international and regional human rights mechanisms and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, to pay due attention to the negative impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and on alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and to report regularly to the Human Rights Council.

VI. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to contribute to the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism through, inter alia, participation in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

Civil Network For Media, Human Rights & Development., NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.