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Statement by
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Thematic Discussion on
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Mr. Chairperson,

In past decades, the Middle East has undergone changes and challenges that have shaped the regional security architecture. Rivalries between forces from within and outside of the region are still shaping its security landscape.

Today, it is clear that the core struggle of the region is between the moderates and the radicals. The moderates are those countries that aim for stability, prosperity and a safe environment. The radicals are those countries and non-state actors that seek to destabilize the region so that they can promote their own radical agendas.

If the moderates seek genuine and positive change in the region that can counter the radicals, they must evolve their views and perceptions of the region. This will be in the benefit of the region. Although we see an ongoing change taking place in the Middle East, it seems that the moderates need reinforcement, as the price is too high: stability, security, sovereignty, prosperity and freedom of religion are being undermined, causing human suffering and an ever-growing death toll.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the late 70s, the radical regime in Iran is aiming to export its revolution to other countries in the Middle East and beyond. From the Arab Gulf, throughout Africa and the Maghreb, to Asia, to North and South America, and to Europe, no one is immune from the threat of Iran. The Iranian regime, its Revolutionary Guard Quds Force, and its proxies are attempting to create strongholds within the mentioned territories and violate sovereignty across the world.

Turning a blind eye is a critical mistake, as it feeds the radical Iranian regime. Reaching out won’t work, as it is viewed as weakness and will be abused by the Iranian regime with no boundaries. The illusion that one can convince radical powers to change their ways only invites more troubling challenges within. The Iranian regime, like the Assad regime, has no problem terrorizing its own people, as well as the entire region and beyond.

Mr. Chairperson,

Terrorism in the Middle East has evolved. While it can take many forms, terrorism has only one purpose: to change the way of life of the moderates.
Terrorists aim to take down governments in the Middle East, because they are not radical enough. Terrorists want to dictate religion – converting and imposing upon innocent populations in the region – because they hold different beliefs. Terrorists feed on their hate for others, and capitalize on fear, vague anti-terror policies and hesitation to respond by states in and out of the region.

These non-state actors have their own agendas, but some of them are tools in the Iranian regime’s terrorism toolbox, with no inhibitions regarding religious orientation, as simply being radical serves them well.

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community and the moderates in the Middle East must work together, without hesitation, without double standards and without illusions against these radical forces. We must all adopt a pro-active approach to block the proliferation within, to and from the Middle East of conventional weapons, missiles, rocket technologies, and WMD know-how and its relevant technologies.

We must also increase pressure on the Iranian regime and its proxies in and out of the Middle East, so that we can contain Iran’s radical actions.

The moderate powers of the Middle East need to find ways to work together to address our collective security concerns. The growing danger from one member state in this very chamber, in its nuclear, proliferation, missile and financial activities, is of great concern. We must face and achieve our common goal of a more prosperous and secure Middle East. That is why the moderates in the Middle East should adopt a constructive approach, rather than waste energy and resources on destructive agendas, which will lead us nowhere and only strengthen the radicals.

Mr. Chairperson,

Please allow me to address the region in Arabic:

انتّ دولة إسرائيل جزء لا يتجزأ من الشرق الأوسط. وتمثل الدول المعتدلة الأخرى في المنطقة تهديد إسرائيل من قبل قوات متطرفة والتي تساهم بلا راحة في محاربتها ومكافحتها.

لقد كان وما زال الموقف الإسرائيلي صعبًا. إذ ما تواجهه من تحديات أمنية وآخرة لا حدود لها.

نحن على استعداد للعمل معا. هذه التهديدات، التي تضع من قبل القوى المتطرفة التكفيرية والانقلابية، تنشأ وتزداد وهي لا تميز بين دول وامم.
The State of Israel is a part and parcel of the Middle East. Like the other moderate countries of the region, Israel is threatened by destructive powers. At the same time, Israel shares in the fight against these malicious and destructive forces.

Israel's approach has always been constructive. We are ready to work together, as the security challenges have no borders and the threats posed by the radicals are growing and do not discriminate between us – the moderates of the region. We are all in the same boat and must work together to reach safe shores.

Direct engagements on bilateral and regional platforms are essential, taking under consideration the need to work together against terror and destructive forces in the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.