



BANGLADESH

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Statement by

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Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the Plenary of the Sixth Committee of the 69th UNGA on 'Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism' (agenda item 107)

New York, October 08, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

At the very outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you, upon your election as chairman of the Sixth Committee. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation. My Delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the OIC respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

It is an undeniable fact that terrorism or threat of terrorism today with its variety of facets, both its magnitude and diversity, is one of the gravest challenges not only to international peace and security and but also to human security and well being. Terrorism has become a threat to peaceful political order and stability for many countries of the world. It not only threatens to life, but also damages infrastructure, disrupt normal life and rule of law, uproots thousands of people from their homes, direct killing of people, undermine confidence in development efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to reiterate that Bangladesh unequivocally condemns terrorism and rejects it in all its forms and manifestations. Bangladesh has a 'zero tolerance policy of terrorism' and under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has waged an uncompromising battle to root out the evils of communalism, extremism and terrorism from within our society. We reaffirm that no cause of motivation can justify resorting to the diabolical acts of terrorism. Those who choose to pursue that devious path of terrorism do not have faith in their own agenda and actually serve to delegitimize their cause in a misguided manner.

Mr. Chairman,

As I mentioned earlier, under the present government Bangladesh has been relentless in her efforts in countering terrorism. Good news is Bangladesh did not experience any serious terrorist attack during the last six years. A party to all 14 universal anti-terrorism instruments, Bangladesh also ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Our government is also currently implementing a national counter radicalization strategy through imparting education, providing job opportunity to the youth, women's empowerment and the propagation of secular and moderate cultural values, creating a mindset of tolerance, friendliness and love and respect for others in line with our 'Culture of peace' resolution. The Government of Bangladesh supports the work of UN in the effective implementation of the Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). We have banned all terrorist groups blacklisted by the 1267 committee. Our national parliament passed the 'Anti-terrorism Act-2012'. The government had enacted country's first ever Money Laundering Prevention Act in 2009 which was updated in 2012 to make it more stringent, to include suspicious transactions and predicate offences for addressing terrorist financing.

Our government is firmly committed to eliminate all forms of militancy, terrorism, communalism and extremism. To this end, we have strengthened all branches of our law enforcing agencies including their intelligence units with modern training and equipments. In fighting against trans-national terrorism we have been closely working with our partner countries. Monitoring and supervision activities have been further tightened to check against any suspicious money transaction supposed to be finance such activities.

Bangladesh fully supports the early conclusion of a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The convention should include a comprehensive

consensus definition of terrorism and make a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle against colonial domination, foreign occupation, and right to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Any attempt to wrongfully associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group should be avoided.

The convention should also address the root causes of terrorism including economic disparity and deprivation, political subjugation and exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, neo colonialism and double standards, oppression and injustice of all kinds, and absence of fair enforcement of rule of law, among others.

Mr. Chairman,

Our government has been following and will continue to follow a 'zero tolerance' policy towards terrorism and religious extremism. Bangladesh pursues a value driven foreign policy that promotes peace, democracy, secularism, freedom, human rights, good governance and social justice, a culture of peace and non-violence, inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues as well as ethnic and religious tolerance to combat extremism. We believe that terrorism, intolerance and conflicts emanate from a mindset of hatred and intolerance and a culture of peace to create a mindset tolerance, friendship and respect for others would promote greater understanding among peoples and tolerance of differing views. One effective way to address terrorism is, therefore, to promote a culture of peace and unity in diversity. In order to defeat terrorism in this increasingly globalized world, we need more than ever before harmony, understanding and mutual respects for all cultures and peoples and accept their diversities.

I thank you.