



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 70th UNGA on 'Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism' (Agenda Item 108)

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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.

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,

disrupts normal life and rule of law, uproots thousands of people from their homes, direct killing of people, undermine confidence in development efforts.

Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Tolerance, promotion of culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, interfaith and intercultural understanding are among the most important path ways to promote cooperation among societies and nations and to successfully combat terrorism.

The use of technology, including information technology and social media has enabled creation of nexus between terrorist networks, non-state actors and transnational criminals. These developments pose newer challenges to States apparatus and the traditional approaches to combating terrorism.

Mr. Chairman

Bangladesh unequivocally condemns terrorism and rejects it in all its forms and manifestations. Bangladesh has a 'zero tolerance policy of terrorism' and has waged an uncompromising battle to root out the evils of communalism, extremism and terrorism from within society. It is reaffirmed 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.

Countering terrorism remains at the top of the national agenda of Bangladesh. In recent years, the government of Bangladesh has made sustained efforts to combat terrorism and financing of terrorism. It has maintained a zero tolerance to terrorism and taken a number of bold, pragmatic and concrete steps to ensure that the soil of Bangladesh is not to be used by the purveyors of terrorism against the interest of anyone, including neighboring countries, thereby making region safer and more secure. Formulation of Anti-Terrorism Act 2009 with amendments in 2012 and 2013 and the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2009, along with supporting legislations and strategies, monitoring and implementation mechanisms on countering terrorism has helped Bangladesh combat terrorism to a great extent. To encounter Cyber Crime, information technology and social media based crime government enacted and implemented Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 which has been emphasized to be strengthen very soon. In a recent development Ministry for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh has announced to establish separate court for trail of counter terrorism cases in each district and employ separate judge with specialization to ensure fair, speedy trail. In 2014, Bangladesh has become a

board member and pilot country for the Global Fund for Community Engagement and Resilience, a public-private global fund to support local, grassroots efforts to counter violent extremism. Bangladesh uses strategic communication to counter violent extremism, especially among youth. The Counter Terrorism Strategy that Government has adopted has drawn heavily from the UN Counter Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Chairman

As mentioned earlier, The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains central to the national efforts to countering terrorism. Bangladesh is also committed to the full implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on counter-terrorism, including resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540 which provide a fundamental framework for international efforts to prevent and fight terrorism and to develop national, regional and sub-regional counter-terrorism capacities.

The global counter-terrorism agenda and strategy need to evolve through continued dialogue and strengthened through globally coordinated approaches, cooperation, capacity development and sharing of best practices. The need for effective coordination within the UN system cannot be sufficiently stressed in the process of implementing the strategy. It is believed that the UN has a key role to play in capacity building both at a national as well as at a regional level. It is only logical that every region or State would approach this process guided by its own strategic security concerns and priorities. The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy can serve as an anchor for situating different regional and national counter-terrorism strategies around its four pillars. It is believed that combating terrorism is a collective responsibility and the UN Global Counter Terrorism reflects collective commitment to and aspiration for securing the mankind from the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman

Government of Bangladesh 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.

Thank you Mr. Chair.