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Statement

**H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Mohammad Fachir
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Indonesia**

At the

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Agenda Item 108: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism**

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you and your team to the Bureau of this Committee. My delegation has full confidence in your able leadership, and we are pleased to offer you our support and cooperation.

I would like to associate my statement with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Iran and Lao PDR; on behalf of NAM and ASEAN respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the years, we have seen the dynamic nature of the threat of terrorism. Terrorist groups have not only proven their endurance, despite the broad of our cooperation; but also their agility.

ISIL and Boko Haram, for example, have turned themselves into armed non-State actors; and taken control of large territories of sovereign States.

We have also seen a more trans-national nature of terrorism. Terrorist groups have no regard for state boundaries. They recruit in one country and raise funds in other countries, but operate where they wish.

Terrorist groups have also become a magnet for foreign terrorist fighters. These fighters may become agents for furthering the message of radicalism, at an unprecedented scope.

The world must also cope with the growth of home-grown terrorists. Their existence is an example of the global dissemination of extremism and radicalism, without the necessity of physical contact with terrorist groups.

Such a situation is not just a side effect of our progress in communication technology but is also a challenge to our heralded notion of "freedom of expression".

Mr. Chairman,

Against that bleak picture, my delegation wishes to pose several ideas.

First, we must change our way of thinking in analyzing the threat of terrorism. Its root cause is getting more complex, as well as its manifestations. We must understand that, while hijacking of religion for terrorist purposes is prevalent, misinterpretation of religion is no longer the underlying cause for terrorism.

There are also other factors behind extremism and terrorism, such as bigotry and intolerance; anger, because of exclusion, marginalization, or discrimination; or fear, because of the sense of being under threat from a different group.

Prolonged conflicts also play an instrumental role in shaping extremist views and providing safe haven for terrorist groups, as we have continued to witness in the Middle East.

Second, we must be more creative in devising our responses, as well as solutions, to extremism and terrorism. Indonesia is of the view that we no longer can rely on hard measures. Some of these measures, such as imprisonment of apprehended terrorists or the use of military means, have only contributed to further radicalization. This is especially true if such measures are conducted in a manner not compatible with our human rights commitments.

Preventive approach and soft measures must be further put into the mainstream. While law enforcement remains paramount, furthering dialogue and instilling respect and tolerance, for example, should be conducted in a more globalized and systematic way.

For her part, Indonesia has for years been very active in promoting the spirit of tolerance and empowering the moderates. At the national level, my Government has engaged civil society and religious leaders, including from the two largest Islamic organizations, *Nahdlatul Ulama* and *Muhammadiyah*, to devise a counter-narrative to extremism.

And **lastly**, we must make sure that our multilateral cooperation is capable of responding to the dynamic threat of extremism and terrorism. For Indonesia, the UN remains in the forefront of our multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. In this respect, we are of the view that the UN system must be among the earliest to understand the changing nature of extremism and terrorism: how it emerges, and how it affects peace and security at different levels.

UN must also be the advocate in the re-thinking and evaluation of global counter terrorism efforts.

Multi-stakeholders approach must continue be strengthened, encompassing all relevant partners: from media to religious communities, and from community to government institutions.

Injustice and inequality must be addressed urgently, as they may provoke anger and extremism. At global level, UN must work harder to ensure that the agreed international rules are applicable to all. At national level, UN must be more focus on assisting States in implementing principles of good governance and inclusive development.

Equally important; is how the UN upholds its responsibility in preventing conflicts, finding political solutions to the on-going conflicts, and in helping states in the post-conflict situation. Terrorists continue to take advantage of conflict areas, or countries where the authority of government is diminished. This certainly is a challenge for the UN to work harder to maintain and create peace, and to help in rebuilding State institutions that are necessary to combat terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by reiterating Indonesia's commitment to continue being a reliable partner in the framework of global cooperation against extremism and terrorism. In this respect, we look forward to receiving the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, early next year; and to contributing to the efforts in devising ways and means for its effective implementation.

We wish to see the upcoming Plan of Action provide clear and direct guidance in the operational framework for the implementation of the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy.

I thank you.
