



Statement by the Bangladesh Delegation under Agenda Item 108: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism at the Sixth Committee of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

Date and venue: 03 October 2017, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Statement by: Ms. Mahjabeen Khaled, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, and Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation, I congratulate you and other Bureau members on your election and assure you of our steadfast support.

Bangladesh welcomes the establishment of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and the appointment of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov as the first Under-Secretary General to lead the Office. We attach importance to enhancing coordination and coherence in the UN's system-wide response to counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism, not least for addressing the misalignment of priorities and reporting that we often witness at the country level.

We are encouraged to see UN Member States' resolve to promote the comprehensive and balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We remain attached to the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) as a possible template for national and regional action. We thank Jordan and Norway for taking the initiative to form a Group of Friends of PVE.

Bangladesh welcomes the Security Council Resolution 2322 (2016) that addresses the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crimes, and also the recent 2379 (2017) that ensures accountability for an international terrorist group. We urge the Council to provide continued guidance to the counter-terrorism committees and expert panels under its remit to conduct their work in regular consultation with the wider membership.

As a State Party to most counter-terrorism treaties, we underscore the need for advancing the work on developing a Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism.

Mr. Chairperson,

Bangladesh maintains that a terrorist is a terrorist and does not deserve to be identified by any belief, caste or creed. Our Government's counter-terrorism response at policy, legal and

institutional levels continues to make significant strides, in line with our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 'zero tolerance' approach.

In the aftermath of last year's tragic terrorist attack at a local restaurant, our law enforcement authorities have already identified a considerable number of masterminds, financiers and foot soldiers, and dealt with them under the purview of law. Efforts are ongoing to unearth the location of the remaining operatives and bring them to justice. We remain determined that no international or regional terrorist groups would find it conducive to gain foothold in our territory.

Bangladesh unequivocally condemned the attacks on Myanmar's border security forces by an extremist group on 25 August, and offered to extend cooperation in the form of coordinated patrol to joint operations. Regrettably, however, we witnessed disproportionate and indiscriminate counter-offensive by Myanmar security forces resulting in unprecedented exodus of civilians across borders into Bangladesh. As we offer shelter to these distressed people, we remain concerned over the possibility of terrorist and violent extremist elements trying to take advantage of their acute vulnerability. We urge the international community to support Myanmar in finding lasting solution to this protracted humanitarian crisis, not least in the interest of regional peace and stability.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our Government calls for a 'whole-of-society' response to root out the evils of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Emphasis is being given on building community resilience and engagement, including through enhanced participation in community policing and women and youth-led initiatives. We are working through effective public-private partnership, and in close collaboration with relevant UN and other entities.

Bangladesh looks forward to partnering with UN-CCT in developing a strategic communication strategy to counter terrorist and violent extremist narratives targeting the susceptible segments of our population, especially children and youth.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, I wish to reiterate the three overriding priorities for the international community articulated by our Hon'ble Prime Minister during her address to the General Assembly last month, and I quote:

- First, stop supplying arms to the terrorists;
- Second, stop terrorist financing; and
- Third, settle all international disputes peacefully.

I can assure you that Bangladesh will continue to remain seized with these issues as we further widen and deepen our engagement with the UN to combat the generational scourges of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

I thank you.