

Bangladesh Statement by Tareq Md Ariful Islam, DPR

Sixth Committee of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly

Agenda item 109 : Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Date and venue : 10 October 2019, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chair of this Committee. You can count on our delegation's fullest support and cooperation in discharging your responsibilities.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of NAM.

Bangladesh maintains a strict policy of 'zero-tolerance' in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. Our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in all her General Assembly (GA) deliberations in recent years, has condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations in the strongest possible terms. This approach has resulted in effectively defeating and dismantling the operational capacity of certain home-grown terrorist outfits claiming themselves to be part of some international or regional networks.

Our sustained investments made in capacity building of the concerned law enforcement, intelligence and border management agencies have allowed Bangladesh to live up to its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for terrorist acts against any of our neighbours. This has been complemented by comprehensible progress in combating financing of terrorism, as recognised by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and in weakening the nexus between terrorist groups and transnational organised criminal networks. Our 'whole-of-society' approach particularly involving mothers and religious leaders has proved to be useful in preventing the spread of violent extremism and radicalization. The engagement of civil society actors in PVE initiatives has enhanced our law enforcement personnel's awareness about their human rights obligations.

Mr. Chairperson,

In line with our national policy, our engagements with the UN in the areas of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism considerably deepened and widened over the past decade. We have been proactively involved in the UN discourse and norm setting initiatives in these areas. We have always been forthcoming in ratifying and implementing the relevant international counter-

terrorism instruments. We are committed to implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. We underscore the importance of comprehensive and balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy, together with the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE). Bangladesh continues its support to the UN by advocating enhanced system-wide coordination and coherence in the fields of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the aftermath of a deadly terrorist attack in an upscale restaurant in Dhaka in 2016, Bangladesh further enhanced engagement with the UN and its counter-terrorism related bodies, with a view to create more opportunities for collaboration. The collaboration now covers diverse areas including national PVE strategy, terrorist designation and asset freezing, strategic communication to counter violent extremist narratives, de-radicalization in prison settings, youth empowerment for preventing violent extremism, maritime and aviation security, preventing the use of weapons of mass destruction for terrorist purposes, and foreign terrorist fighters, etc.

Mr. Chairperson,

Bangladesh supported the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT) and developed multi-layered partnership with the office. In such engagements, we had been emphasising on recognition of our national priorities in the UN's works on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. To review the factors driving individuals towards radicalisation and to assess the current capacities in Bangladesh to reduce and prevent radicalization, an expert team from UNOCT visited Bangladesh last year. We are interested in getting more capacity-building support from UNOCT and its partners to combat terrorist threats in cyberspace, address de-radicalization in prisons and enhance aviation security. We underscore the importance of timely exchange of information for tracking and intercepting movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs).

In view of the ominous rise of acts of terrorism and violent extremism worldwide, it is high time that we put our acts together to rid the world of this menace.

I thank you Mr. Chair.