



BANGLADESH

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Statement

by

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to

The United Nations

at

The Sixth Committee of the 62nd Session of the United Nations
General Assembly

On

Agenda Item 108

Measures to eliminate International Terrorism

New York

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PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by warmly congratulating you, and the bureau, upon your well deserved election. I am confident that your leadership would lead our work to fruition. My Delegation would like to align itself with the statements delivered by Cuba on behalf of the NAM and by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC Group.

Mr. Chairman,

This Committee has been instrumental in the development and codification of the Conventions on Terrorism. These are important tools in our struggle against this afflict. We are worried about the fact that we have not yet been able to build a consensus about a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We request for the indulgence of all Member States for and early conclusion of the negotiations of the Convention. In this connection, we would like to express our deep appreciation to Ambassador Rohan Perera of his tireless efforts with the Ad-hoc Committee.

Mr. Chair,

Terrorism is not bred in isolation. Its causes are very often deep rooted in the society and the circumstances. It stems from inter alia, injustice, inequalities, subjugation and exploitation in national and international levels. Use of force in reaction may temporarily disrupt it. But we must realize today that without a all encompassing approach targeted at the root causes, we can not forever eliminate its resurgence.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh condemns terrorism in all its forms. We deprecate all its manifestations, irrespective of who commits them, where, and for whatever reasons. We have ratified all 13 Conventions on Terrorism. We are party to the SAARC Regional Convention on Terrorism. Necessary domestic legislations for these purposes have been put in place. We are also in full compliance with our obligations vis-à-vis relevant Security Council resolutions. These are tangible testimonies of our unswerving adherence to the global fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

Terrorism is all pervasive. It crosses the boundary of race, religion, culture and States. None is immune. But it is regrettable that there is a growing tendency to associate it with Islam. This is not only unfair but also imprudent. It ignores Islam's contribution to human civilization and culture. This unwise attempt of some quarters is breeding distrust and causing division. This will erode much of the good work done here, and elsewhere, in our combined efforts to contain terrorism. Instead we must focus our attention on building bridges across gaps. In this connection,

Bangladesh stewards every year a Resolution on the Culture of Peace. We would commend it to all delegations.

Mr. Chairman,

We are of the view that any Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism must address the issue of state terrorism. This is the reality of today's world. The definition of terrorism should be crafted in such a way that no terrorist activities, whether sponsored by a state or a non-state actor, are spared. Acts of terrorism against innocents are always abhorrent, no matter who is the perpetrator. They must be abjured. Strict law must be put in place domestically and internationally to ensure that no act of terrorism goes without a matching response. The UN and the international community should support with resources those who require them for capacity-building.

Mr. Chairman,

There should be clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle against colonial domination and foreign occupation, and for self-determination and independence. Bangladesh achieved its own independence through a War of Liberation. Much of the war was conducted unconventionally. It also had been asymmetric in character. No war of independence has been any different. Any attempt for political use of anti-terrorism sentiments to suppress genuine popular movements for freedom and self-determination is bound to backfire. These factors must be considered, and weighed, as we construct a definition of terrorism.

Mr. Chair,

The adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a watershed achievement in the global fight against terrorism. Our next target must be the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention. Any delay in this regard would be detrimental. We believe that we have the intellectual wherewithal to face up to the challenge before us. The global public opinion is also supportive. The global situation is appropriate. We must seize this moment to reach an agreement. We must not miss this opportunity to discharge our responsibility to next generation and beyond.

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