



## BANGLADESH

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**Statement by  
H.E. Dr. A K Abdul Momen**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the General Debate of the Sixth Committee of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" [agenda item 107]**

**New York, 06 October 2010**

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Madam Chair,

Let me begin by joining the previous speakers in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. My Delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the NAM and OIC groups respectively. We express our appreciation to Secretary General for his annual report A/65/175 on "measures to eliminate international terrorism". We also commend Ambassador Rohan Perera for his report (A/65/37) on the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly resolution 51/210 of December 1996 and the Coordinator of the Working Group Ms. Maria Tetalian for their untiring efforts in resolving outstanding issues. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Madam Chair,

Bangladesh condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Bangladesh is a party to all the 13 international Conventions on terrorism. Bangladesh is also a party to the SAARC Regional Convention on Terrorism including its Protocol. Necessary domestic legislations like Anti-Terrorism Act 2009 and Anti-Money laundering Act have been promulgated to adhere to the provisions of the said international instruments. The Anti-Terrorism Act 2009 includes all international reporting requirements as well as provisions for punishment for non-compliance of such reporting by the designated reporting agencies.

The present government from the very beginning expressed its firm resolve to engage in fighting terrorism including taking a regional initiative. In this vein, the Government of Bangladesh, in association with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and with the support of the development partners and relevant UN agencies, has successfully hosted a "Regional Workshop for Police Officers and Prosecutors in South Asia on effectively countering Terrorism" in Dhaka from 8 to 10 November 2009, which was attended by experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka. These are tangible testimonies of our steadfast adherence to the global fight against terrorism.

Madam Chair,

Terrorism has many facets - religious, political ideology-based, state sponsored, etc. It crosses the boundary of race, religion, culture and States. My delegation is of the view that any Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism must address, among others, the issue of state terrorism. 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 innocent civilians are always condemnable, no matter who is the perpetrator.

No one is immune. But it is regrettable that there is a growing tendency to associate it with certain religious beliefs. This is not only unfair but also imprudent. This mystic 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.

Madam Chair,

There should be a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle against colonial domination and foreign occupation, and right to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Any attempt of political use of anti-terrorism sentiments to suppress genuine popular movements or pockets of grievances, legitimate struggle for freedom and self-determination is bound to backfire. These factors must be considered and weighed, while we make efforts to reach agreement on a consensus definition of terrorism.

Madam Chair,

The adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a watershed achievement in the global fight against terrorism. Bangladesh fully supports this comprehensive strategy. Early last month once again we have seen the collective resolve of the Member States to combat terrorism through the adoption of the UNCT Review resolution with a consensus, which I had the privilege to facilitate. We are happy to note the gradual institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). We share the view that all the efforts on counter-terrorism under the auspices of the UN should be transparent and all the Member States should be briefed about them regularly.

In closing, I would like to extend my delegation's support for the proposal of Saudi Arabia to establish an international centre, under the auspices of the United Nations, to combat terrorism; and convening of a high-level conference on counter-terrorism.

I thank you, Madam Chair.