



BANGLADESH

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT

THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 61ST SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON
AGENDA ITEM 100
**MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM**

New York, 11 October 2006

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Statement by H. E. Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the Sixth Committee of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 'Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism' (Agenda Item 100).

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Could I begin by warmly welcoming you Mr. Chairman, and the Bureau upon your well deserved election. I have no doubt your leadership will lead our work to fruition.

This Committee has been instrumental in the development and codification of the Conventions on Terrorism. These are important tools in our struggle against this scourge. The phenomenon of terrorism dates back centuries. But 9/11 has underscored its contemporary deadliness. Against this backdrop work of this Committee has assumed heightened importance. It is now charged with the task of concluding a Comprehensive Convention on International terrorism. My delegation, I assure you Mr. Chairman, will cooperate in every possible way so that this responsibility can be effectively discharged.

The work done so far in the drafting deserves praise. A rich tribute is owed to Ambassador Rohan Perera of Sri Lanka for his tireless efforts. His handling of the long drawn proceedings of the Ad Hoc Committee was dexterous. He deserves full marks for the conclusion of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Terrorism is not an isolated phenomenon. Its causes are often deep rooted in society. It stems from injustice, inequalities, subjugation and exploitation. Use of force in reaction may put a lid on it for sometime. But without a holistic approach addressing the root causes we cannot 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 12 out of the 13 Conventions on Terrorism. We are currently in the process of completing the constitutional procedures to adhere to the recently concluded

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear 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-a-vis relevant Security Council resolutions. These are tangible testimonies of our unswerving adherence to the global fight against terrorism.

Terrorism is all-pervasive. It crosses the boundaries of race, religion, culture and States. None is immune. But it is regrettable that there is a growing tendency to try and associate it with one religion. This is not only unfair but also imprudent. It is causing distrust and division. This will erode much of the good work done here, and elsewhere, on the issue. Instead we should 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.

There should also be clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle against 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 and was asymmetric in character. No War of Independence has been any different. Any clear or political use of anti-terrorism sentiments to suppress genuine movements for freedom is bound to backfire. These factors must be considered, and weighed, as we craft a definition of terrorism. But acts of terrorism against innocents are always abhorrent and must be abjured. Strict laws must be put in place to ensure that, municipally and internationally.

Mr. Chairman, The adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a watershed achievement in this global fight. Our next target must be the Comprehensive Convention. We believe we have the intellectual wherewithal to face up to the challenge before us. The public opinion everywhere is supportive. The global situation is appropriate. We must seize this moment to reach an agreement, otherwise we will have missed an opportunity to discharge our responsibility, not just to our generation, though also that, but also to those yet unborn.
