

Mr. Thein (Myanmar):

It is my honour to speak at this important debate on countering the narratives and ideologies of terrorism. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

We congratulate Egypt on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May and for convening this debate. My delegation welcomes the adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2016/6 today.

Myanmar is equally concerned with the violence and instability across much of the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the possibility of encountering such incidents in other parts of the world, including our own region. Myanmar resolutely opposes any act of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We share the sympathy for the victims of the terrorist acts that took place today in Iraq and for all of the victims of the narratives of terrorism in our time.

Today, we are facing an extraordinary form of terrorism that surpasses all traditional and non-traditional threats across the globe, as it intends to shake up the very fabric of civilized society and inject its violent and extreme ideologies into the hearts and minds of younger generations. On the extremist front, terrorism preys on vulnerable groups, such as women and children, and even soft targets such as medical facilities and health-care personnel. Terrorism ignores geographical and ethical boundaries.

The Internet and social media have also made it possible to spread the ideologies of terrorism and hatred in ways that are difficult to follow. Therefore, States must take every possible measure to track and deter such cyberelements on the Internet, using appropriate technological means. We must also holistically address the root causes, in addition to security and law enforcement retaliation, including by way of the political, social and economic means necessary to prevent such threats.

The role of women is important in participating in the decision-making process on all political, economic and social platforms. Children and young people must be cared for and provided with educational opportunities throughout their lives, with a view to knowing right from wrong, as a form of preventive immunization from the threats of terrorism and crime.

Myanmar enacted its domestic law on combating terrorism on 4 June 2014. We criminalized various forms of terrorism, as well as the financing and abetting of terrorism. We have also enacted domestic legislation to suppress the financing of terrorism and moneylaundering, as well as legislation to provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. On the structural side, the necessary central control bodies and the Financial Intelligence Unit have also been established.

Myanmar reaffirmed its dedication to peace and security and to countering terrorism by signing the Additional Protocol to the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement in 2013 and by ratifying the Biological Weapons Convention in 2014 and the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2015. National implementation measures, in cooperation with the relevant treaty bodies and technical support agencies, such as the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence, are being carried out pursuant to the provisions of the relevant Conventions.

Myanmar respects and adheres to all resolutions of the Security Council, in particular those relating to the fight against terrorism, and cooperates fully with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and other concerned United Nations agencies. We welcome the vision of establishing a comprehensive international framework by 2017 to address the terrorism issue. To date, Myanmar is a State party to 11 international instruments relating to countering terrorism.

We are an active member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter Terrorism, which represents the collective regional efforts being made by ASEAN countries since 2011. We continue to work on the new ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2020 and seek to strengthen access to quality educational systems. The Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism in October last year strengthened regional cooperation on that issue.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) and the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change have created guiding frameworks for Member States to implement and build strategic partnerships, which could help us create societies that do not tolerate any act of terrorism while leaving no one behind in achieving those goals. The role of the United Nations is relevant to the preventive measures that can be taken to sustain peace and prevent violent extremism. The United Nation system can help Member States by providing technical assistance in national capacity-building so that they can address those issues in the areas and according to the priorities indicated by Member States.

In conclusion, Myanmar would like to reaffirm its commitment to engaging with the various agencies of United Nations, the United Nations system itself and Member States in order to address the threats of terrorism through available frameworks, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) and other relevant frameworks. Myanmar will continue to work actively with regional and international partners to prevent and counter terrorism. Terrorism transcends religious, ethnic, cultural and territorial boundaries, as it threatens peace, stability and the development of all humankind.

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