

## Security Council Open Debate on Threats to International Peace and Security Terrorism and Cross-Border Crime December 2014, Security Council Chamber

*Statement by Mr. Momen Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations.*

Mr. President, let me join my colleagues in thanking you for organizing this open debate. Recurring acts of terrorism have posed one of the greatest threats to international peace and security in recent years. Millions of people, including women and children, have become innocent victims of terror in our times. We strongly condemn the unimaginably barbaric act of terrorism targeting innocent schoolchildren in Pakistan this week that claimed 141 innocent lives, mostly children. Such senseless, despicable acts of terror, as our Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, rightly observed, only enhance our resolve to fight this scourge in a united manner, with a stronger commitment and sincerity.

The effective countering of terrorism is a collective endeavour. Because of the advent of technology, terrorism and terrorist threats continue to evolve and manifest themselves differently in different parts of the world. Responses to terrorism need to reflect this reality and be able to adapt constantly.

International efforts to combat terrorism must involve addressing the root causes of terrorism. In the process of identifying its root causes, terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Addressing marginalization, poverty, social exclusion and racial, cultural and religious discrimination must be part of the strategies to counter terrorism.

It also needs to be recognized that terrorism cannot be defeated solely by coercive measures. We have to engage in soft diplomacy and impart awareness, quality education, eliminate inequalities and work with marginalized groups of society as an effective strategy. Similarly, inculcating tolerance, promoting a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, and interfaith and intercultural understanding are among the most important pathways to promote cooperation among societies and nations and to successfully combat terrorism. To have sustainable, long-term peace and stability, Bangladesh has been promoting a culture of peace and trying to inculcate a mindset of tolerance, a mindset of love and respect for others, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, caste, religion or colour, free of hatred and intolerance. This cannot be done only by the Government; all institutions and organizations, in particular the media, teachers, community leaders, schools, parents, authors, writers, poets and singers, non-governmental organizations, civil society and religious leaders have to take the lead to create a mindset of tolerance and understanding.

The nexus between terrorist networks, non-State actors and transnational criminals poses newer challenges to State apparatuses and traditional lines of national defence. They compel us to devise more innovative, well-coordinated and near-impenetrable strategies to ensure cross-border controls against the illicit movement of terrorists and criminals and the transfer of weapons, ammunition and their means of production and delivery. To be sure, the nexus between terrorists and criminals has been greatly facilitated by the advent and misuse of information technology and easy access to weapons. The Internet has become a fertile breeding ground for terrorist activities. Subversive uses of the Internet must be identified and obstructed. The financing of terrorism through the Web must be halted and the online

nexus of terrorist and other organized criminal entities, including through the use of social media, must be dismantled.

Bangladesh's position on terrorism is consistent. We denounce it in all its forms and manifestations, no matter why, how or where it is carried out. Bangladesh maintains a policy of zero tolerance for all forms of terrorism, including financing of terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, both nationally and internationally. Bangladesh, as a matter of principle, does not allow its territory to be used by any terrorist individual, group or entity against any State or people.

We have taken commendable initiatives to end cross-border crimes and terrorism, as well as cross-border financing of terrorism and extremism. In addition, it is imperative that the cross-border trafficking of illegal weapons and ammunition be stopped in order to reduce their supply to terrorists or terrorist networks. It is essential that weapons producers correctly identify every item produced, including arms and ammunition. We recommend that the media name the producers of killer weapons when they report on terrorist acts of killing. Bangladesh also maintains a strong legal, regulatory and institutional regime countering terrorism, including through statutory orders and by enacting laws on anti-terrorism and the prevention of money-laundering, as well as by implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism and financing terrorism, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 2178 (2014), and their successor resolutions.

We believe that all national, regional and international actions against terrorism should be conform to relevant international human rights and humanitarian laws. We are committed to working closely with United Nations counter-terrorism bodies and their international partners, including at the regional level, in order to achieve greater international cooperation on information-sharing and capacity-building so as to address terrorist threats to peace and security.