



BANGLADESH

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for organising this High-level Conference focusing on international cooperation to combat the evolving threats of terrorism.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina maintains a zero tolerance approach to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Under her guidance, Bangladesh has made big strides in combating terrorist elements, including those inspired by international terrorist groups. With the support of our people in general, our law enforcement authorities have been able to identify and locate terrorists, and bring them to justice.

In the process, we remain aware of the need to uphold relevant human rights standards. We underline the need for addressing the root causes and drivers of terrorism. As such, we actively encourage a 'whole-of-society' approach to build defence against terrorist and violent extremist elements at the community level. Our community policing initiatives have been particularly effective in this respect. Our women empowerment and youth development programmes have had a far-reaching impact on preventing the spread of violent extremism.

On the preventive side, we are exploring further work with the UN-Counter Terrorism Centre to improve strategic communication with a view to counter terrorist messaging. We are also working on good practices from other relevant contexts to share alternative messaging in prison settings. Our agencies concerned are building their capacity to track terrorist contents online and to take measures against such content providers, including through cooperation with the private sector.

We remain concerned over the growing nexus between terrorism and transnational organised crimes. Our authorities continue to work on further enhancing our competence gained in combating financing of terrorism and money laundering. We remain open to working together with interested international and regional partners to improve our capacity in mutual legal assistance.

Bangladesh remains firmly committed not to allow our territory to be used by terrorists from our neighbouring countries. Our agencies have kept a close eye on any terrorist elements among the massive influx of the Rohingya that we have experienced from Myanmar's Rakhine State since last year. We have seriously looked into any information provided by Myanmar in this regard, and have suggested that concrete information be give against such operatives in our common interest. It cannot, however, be justified that any counter-terrorism drive in Myanmar would lead to the expulsion of more than seven hundred thousand people of a particular ethnic group across border into Bangladesh. It is critical

that Myanmar takes effective action against collusion between terrorist elements and human, drug and arms traffickers.

Bangladesh has remained on guard about any suspected movement of foreign terrorist fighters through or across our territory. Our border control and immigration authorities closely monitor any such transit based on PNR data and API. We ensure surveillance based on the information and reports received from INTERPOL or on a bilateral basis. We continue to seek further capacity building support for strengthening our maritime and aviation security systems, and other related aspects covered by the Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017).

We remain aware of certain members of the Bangladesh Diaspora having been recruited as Foreign Terrorist Fighters. We reaffirm our interest in working together with the concerned countries to detect and intercept such individuals at our border. Due to sustained vigilance, we have not seen any attempt among such individuals to enter into Bangladesh in recent times.

To conclude, I pledge the Bangladesh counter-terrorism agencies' readiness to work in cooperation with the UN and other international partners to help implement the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy at the national and regional levels.

I thank you.