



MYANMAR

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Statement by Mr. Min Thein, Deputy Director-General of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Alternative Representative of the Myanmar Delegation on Agenda Item 111 “Measure to Eliminate International Terrorism” at the Sixth Committee of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I wish to extend my warm congratulations to you and members of the bureau for your well deserved election. We assure you of our full support and cooperation.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement and the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. We are grateful to the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to peace and stability of the world today. No country is immune from modern day non-traditional security challenges and terrorism. No country can effectively deal with terrorism alone. In recent years, the emergence of home-grown and lone wolf terrorists has posed unprecedented fear and uncertainty within our societies since most of the attacks have been directed against soft targets.

Consequently, our collective response against terrorism is being confronted with the numerous parallel and interlinked global terror networks. In this respect, return and

relocation of foreign terrorist fighters becomes one of the most evolving threats to the member states.

It is more than ever crucial to intensify our concerted multilateral efforts to respond effectively against emerging transnational and multifaceted nature of terrorism. It is also necessary to follow a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism in line with the United Nations resolutions including Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and its biennial reviews.

Mr. Chairman

My delegation reaffirms Myanmar's commitment to strengthen cooperation with regional and international partners in the fight against terrorism. Myanmar strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whosoever committed.

Any religion, race, nationality or ethnicity should not be associated with radicalization and violent extremism that leads to terrorism, nor shall they justify terrorism or terrorist acts for whatever reason.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar became a signatory to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Convention in 2004. Since then, the government of Myanmar enacted Counter Terrorism Law and Anti-Money Laundering Law in 2014.

The government is closely cooperating with Interpol, ASEAN-pol, UNODC and International counterparts to counter terrorism both at regional and international levels. While intensifying its counter terrorism efforts, Myanmar has given emphasis on preventive measures against violent extremism through promotion of tolerance, interfaith and intercultural dialogues among different communities.

Myanmar's Financial Investigation Unit and Counter-Terrorism Department have been working closely with the Financial Action Task Force in eradicating money-laundering to prevent terrorist-funding. The Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering conducted the second mutual evaluation in Myanmar last year.

Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar has had painful experiences of terrorist attacks in recent years. The current crisis in Rakhine State in October 2016 and August 2017 were ignited by the unprovoked and premeditated attacks of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorist group, formerly known as AqaMul Mujahidin.

The ARSA terrorists had killed many security personnel and hundreds of innocent civilians, including ethnic minorities and pro-government Muslims. Such inhuman killings made thousands of innocent ethnic population fled their villages to the other parts of Rakhine State. Likewise, the terrorist brutality created a massive exodus of Muslims to the neighbouring country.

According to international intelligence sources as well as the information from interrogation of apprehended ARSA members, it was found that the ARSA is guided and supported by a number of foreign terrorist groups including Al-Qaeda and ISIL who have called for Jihad against Myanmar government earlier. ARSA leader Hafiz Tohar a.k.a. Atta Ullah himself is a Foreign Terrorist Fighter. If ARSA is allowed to operate freely, it will soon become part of regional terrorism-networks.

We denounce any form of political, moral or material support for terrorism and urge all states to refrain from such activities. Sheltering terrorist elements and discounting or ignoring the atrocities committed by any terrorist group amount to condoning or wilfully supporting terrorism. It is important to ensure that refugee status or any humanitarian cover must not be abused by terrorists for their purposes.

In this connection, I would like to underline the crucial importance of monitoring terrorist movements including ASRA activities and their networks in the region and beyond to prevent further terrorist attacks in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate Myanmar's commitment to condemn and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as violent extremism conducive to terrorism. We assure our continued support and cooperation with

the regional and international partners including the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism.

I thank you.