



# MYANMAR

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**Statement by Ambassador Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the  
United Nations**

**on Agenda Item 109“Measure to Eliminate International Terrorism”**

**at the Sixth Committee of the**

**74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Madam Chair,

Let me begin by offering my sincere congratulations to you and members of the bureau on your well-deserved elections. My delegation will cooperate fully with you in discharging your important duties. I am confident that under your able stewardship, our deliberations will bear fruitful results.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on this agenda item.

Madam Chair,

The global terrorism landscape is transforming into a more sophisticated form since terrorists continue to exploit internet and social media to facilitate a wide range of their activities. Electronic social media has been increasingly used for incitement, radicalization, recruitment, training, planning, and collection of information, communication and financing for terrorism. In addition, terrorists are using dark web and encrypted communication to share secret information such as weapon and explosive designs and attack strategies.

Recent technological developments in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), robotic technology, big data and biotechnology can also be misused by terrorists to expand the range and lethality of their attacks. International terrorist groups such as ISIL are reported to have used drones in their operations.

Coordinated terrorist suicide bombings in Sri Lanka and the lone-wolf attack in Christchurch earlier this year have shown that the home-grown and lone wolf terrorists have been able to unleash unprecedented fears and uncertainties within our societies and communities since the attacks were directed against soft targets and worship places.

The increasing application of advanced technologies, the growing emergence of home-grown and lone-wolf terrorism as well as FTFs phenomena are the key aspects of the critical security threats engendered from global terrorism that we must tackle with greater collective and comprehensive efforts under relevant United Nations resolutions. Myanmar is committed to fulfill its obligations under the UN Charter to lend its support in the implementation of GCTS.

Madam Chair,

Myanmar is a party to 15 out of 19 universal counter-terrorism instruments. It has enacted Counter-Terrorism Law on 4 July 2014. Subsequently, the Government of Myanmar has formed the Central Committee for Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Department in 2015. The government has also enacted Anti-Money Laundering Law and set up a Financial Investigation Unit to deter and prevent terrorist financing.

The Government of Myanmar has given special emphasis on the prevention of mainstreaming of violent extremism through the promotion of tolerance and dialogue among communities and enhancement of interfaith and intercultural dialogues. Moreover, through its law enforcement institutions, Myanmar has been closely cooperating with Interpol, ASEAN-pol, UNODC and other international bodies to fight against terrorism both at regional and international levels.

Myanmar has been facing growing security threats of terrorism, particularly from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). The present humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State of Myanmar was ignited by the unprovoked armed attacks of ARSA against multiple Myanmar security posts in 2016 and 2017.

Madam Chair,

We are seriously concerned about the clear and present terror threat of ARSA based on two reasons.

First, ARSA has never established a single permanent base inside Myanmar since its inceptions. ARSA radicalizes local Muslims and gave them warfare training from abroad. The group usually initiates and organizes terrorist attacks through internet communication such as WhatsApp audio message. Therefore, bilateral and regional cooperation is crucial to effectively control ARSA activities.

Second, we are concerned about the link between ARSA and international terrorist groups, including FTFs. Since its inception, ARSA has been reportedly guided and supported by foreign terrorists such as Al-Qaeda, ISIL, and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Recently, some FTFs had tried to enter Myanmar territory from one of our neighboring countries in Southeast Asia in an attempt to reinforce ARSA terrorist activities. The latest arrest of ARSA terrorist suspects linking with ISIL in Malaysia in May and July this year were indisputable evidence of their connection.

Madam Chair,

The security threat posed by ARSA has been a major impediment to the restoration of peace, harmony and stability in Rakhine State. Death threats and intimidation of ARSA against displaced persons in the refugee camps on Bangladesh side had made the repatriation process impossible to commence. Recently, the German news agency DW has revealed that over three thousand five hundred ARSA terrorist individuals are sheltering in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. They have threatened aid workers and even killed people who expressed their desire to return to Rakhine State. Despite such threats, over 300 people have returned with their own arrangement.

My delegation denounces any form of political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism or extremism. Any support, including moral support to terrorists especially ARSA terrorist group, wittingly or unwittingly, must be avoided. We urge all countries to refrain from such act. No terrorist activity or any support to such activities can be justified or condoned as a legitimate act for whatever reason.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate that Myanmar is committed to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We look forward to enhancing our cooperation with the UN Counter Terrorism bodies and with regional and international partners for capacity building, information sharing and combating the threat of international terrorism.

I thank you Madam Chair.