



MYANMAR

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**Statement by Mr. Nyan Lin Aung, Adviser of the Myanmar Delegation
on Agenda Item 114 “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”**

at the Sixth Committee of the

75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

8-10-2020

Madam Chair,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. I assure you of my delegation’s fullest support and cooperation throughout the sessions.

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 contained in document (A/75/176) which includes Myanmar submission on measures taken for the prevention and combating of terrorism and violent extremism. My delegation also wishes to thank the respective Member States for their valuable inputs and sharing of best practices for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General.

Madam Chair,

Terrorism remains a major threat to international peace and security which claims loss of lives, properties and casualties around the globe. The threats of terrorism have even more formidable when terrorists continue to exploit online and offline platforms, specially social media networks to facilitate a wide range of their activities including fundraising, radicalization and recruitment.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the global population including students has to rely more on online platform than they were in the past for their daily routine. This situation is offering terrorists a greater opportunity to expose cybercrimes including exploiting the pandemic for their narratives and propaganda.

Therefore, we are of the view that the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism. We, therefore, remain committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) which provides a framework for international cooperation to fight international through concerted efforts. Myanmar is also committed to fulfill its obligations under the UN Charter to lend its support in the implementation of GCTS. We welcome the “Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week” initiated by the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) with the theme of “Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment” convened on 6 to 10 July this year.

Madam Chair,

Myanmar is strengthening its cooperation and coordination with relevant international and regional multilateral institutions including the United Nations and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to combat terrorism and all forms of violent extremism. Myanmar is a party to 15 out of 19 universal counter-terrorism instruments. In the regional context, Myanmar is a member of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism.

In addition, the government of Myanmar has joined the UNODC Border Liaison Office Network since 2013. We are working closely with our regional counterparts in sharing information and participating in joint activities to combat trans-border terrorism. Myanmar has initiated and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Security Dialogue and Cooperation as well as the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of Border Liaison Office with Bangladesh on 24 October 2017.

We are taking necessary measures to prevent violent extremism through promotion of tolerance, interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the national level. In order to promote interfaith harmony, a total of 130 interfaith groups have been established nationwide. In addition, the concerned authorities in Myanmar have been raising awareness of the social media norms to promote digital literacy in preventing and combating hate speeches.

Madam Chair,

Myanmar has been facing growing security threats of terrorism, particularly from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) after the group mounted unprovoked armed attacks against Myanmar security posts in 2016 and 2017. Since early this year, ARSA has re-intensified its military operations in Rakhine State including a bomb attack in Maungdaw Township on 30 March 2020 that killed two civilians.

The terrorist threats become more formidable in Rakhine State when the Arakan Army (AA) has committed terrorist acts since 4 January 2019. Therefore, the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee of Myanmar declared the Arakan Army a Terrorist Group on 23 March 2020 in

pursuant to the Section (6), Subsection (e) and Section 72 (b) of the Anti-Terrorism Law of Myanmar.

The security threats from both ARSA and AA terrorist groups have been a major impediment to the restoration of peace, harmony and stability in Rakhine State including the repatriation of the displaced persons from the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Madam Chair,

My delegation wishes to reiterate our particular concerned on the vibrant and growing terror threat of ARSA based on the following reasons.

Since its inception, ARSA terrorist group has never established a single permanent base inside Myanmar territory. The group radicalizes local Muslims and gave them warfare training from abroad. The group usually initiates and organizes terrorist attacks through online and offline audio and video messages. We believe that bilateral and regional active cooperation are the most effective way to control and combat ARSA's terrorist activities.

ARSA has been reportedly guided and supported by regional and international terrorist group such as Al-Qaeda, ISIL, and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). According to the German news agency DW's report published on 13 February 2020, the Jamaat-ul Mujahudeen of Bangladesh (JMB) is providing training to some members of ARSA terrorist group.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our unwavering commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No terrorist activities or any support of such activities can be justified or condoned as a legitimate act for whatever reasons and contexts. We always denounce any form of political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism or violent extremism. In addition, all forms of support, including moral support, to terrorists especially to ARSA and AA terrorist group, explicitly or implicitly, must be avoided.

We look forward to enhancing cooperation with international and regional institutions including the UN Counter Terrorism bodies to combat terrorism. We would welcome assistance for capacity building, capacity development for Myanmar law enforcements agencies to be effectively dealing with the threats of terrorism.

I thank you Madam Chair.