

*Please check against delivery*



# **BANGLADESH**

## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H. E. DR. IFTEKHAR AHMED CHOWDHURY  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT**

**THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 108  
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

**NEW YORK  
07 OCTOBER 2005**

Could I begin, Mr. Chairman, by warmly congratulating you, and the bureau, on your well-deserved election. Also allow me to say how happy I am to see you, a colleague of such prodigious qualities, lead the work of this Committee, specially at a time when it is engaged with the important task of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism by this session.

My delegation expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the recent terrorist bombings in Bali of Indonesia. Also to the families of victims of such heinous terrorist attacks around the world.

Mr. chairman, work of the Sixth Committee has always played a critical role in gradual development and codification of international law. More so in developing a series of conventions on terrorism, which have become useful instruments in our fight against this menace, a menace that has changed the course of international politics in recent years.

Work in this Committee, however, has assumed added significance this year. The Summit Outcome document has mandated us to negotiate and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the current session. We should doubtless make good of our leaders' collective commitment on this issue of vital importance to all of us. My delegation will extend all possible cooperation to you in your efforts of bringing our efforts to fruition.

Bangladesh associates itself with the statement by Yemen on behalf of the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. Chairman, it is true that while terrorism has been a phenomenon for centuries, in one form or another, the unfortunate events of 9/11 has brought the issue to the fore of our discussions and actions. A substantial amount of work has been done at the United Nations on this. We have concluded thirteen conventions dealing with different aspects of terrorism. Time is now opportune for us to make our final effort to agree on a comprehensive convention on this subject.

We deeply appreciate the work done so far in its drafting. I congratulate Ambassador Rohan Perera of Sri Lanka for his deft handling of and vision in leading the process in the Ad Hoc Committee established for the purpose. Our appreciation is also due for his invaluable role in concluding the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, Bangladesh unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has reaffirmed this conviction during the Summit. Bangladesh has ratified twelve UN conventions on terrorism. We are currently in the process of completing the constitutional procedures to adhere to the recently adopted International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. She is also a party to the

SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Regional Convention on Terrorism. Necessary domestic legislations have been put in place. We are also in full compliance with our obligations vis-à-vis the resolutions adopted by the Security Council on terrorism.

Terrorism, Mr. Chairman, does not discriminate between races, cultures or faiths. People from all faiths have been victims of this scourge. We regret, however, that there has been a deliberate attempt to link terrorism with certain faith. We would like to stress that the phenomenon of terrorism is antithetical to the teachings of Islam. Islam advocates peace, tolerance, non-violence and harmony. It would be in our collective interest to devote our resources, intellectual and material, to offset this vicious campaign.

We believe that this menace cannot be fought only by military means. Process of instant retribution will be of little help. We need to adopt a holistic approach. We need to address the underlying factors that motivate some people to follow such destructive path. Political and socio-economic injustices prevailing around the world must be addressed if we are to uproot the malaise forever. Should we fail to do so, it would be at our great peril.

We also need to promote dialogue, cooperation and understanding among different cultures, civilizations and faiths. Bangladesh has been championing establishing a Culture of Peace among the peoples through promotion of dialogue and understanding among different cultures, civilizations and faiths. It is our hope that such a Culture of Peace would go a long way towards enhancing understanding and tolerance among peoples. Our leaders have endorsed all such initiatives during the 2005 World Summit. We now need to advance these initiatives further.

Mr. Chairman, we reiterate our demand that while elaborating the convention, we must make a distinction between terrorism and the legitimate right to self-determination and to struggle for independence of the peoples under foreign occupation. We reiterate our call for convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

It is also logical, Mr. Chairman, that a convention on international terrorism would have a legal definition of terrorism, also of terrorist acts. We wish to reiterate that a legal definition of terrorism is not a political issue, but a legal one. The issue, therefore, must be dealt with in this Committee.

We also need to draw and adopt a universal counter-terrorism strategy. The elements identified by the Secretary-General may form an element of our work in this regard. Such a strategy should have full respect for human rights while fighting terrorism, and should take into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, we agree with the Secretary-General that terrorism is a threat to all that the United Nation Stands for: respect for human rights, the rule of law, the protection of civilians, tolerance among peoples and nations and the peaceful resolution of conflict. There is no disagreement, we believe, that a stronger resolve is now called for in fighting

this scourge. Adoption of such a comprehensive convention by consensus would be a milestone in the history of mankind. We must not, cannot miss this opportunity on any pretext. Or history would judge us harshly, and rightly so.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.