



(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY
MR. RAJA REZA RAJA ZAIB SHAH
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 118 ON
THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY
NEW YORK, 12 JUNE 2014

At the outset, I wish to join others in extending our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting that allows us to take stock of progress made in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006. I wish to thank the Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, for his report (A/68/841) on the ongoing implementation of the Strategy. We are especially appreciative of the new summary matrix of counter-terrorism projects implemented by UN entities on countering terrorism. I wish to pay tribute to H.E. Halit Cevik, the Permanent Representative of Turkey, and members of his Mission for the excellent manner in which they have facilitated consultations on the draft resolution on the fourth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I also wish to join others in expressing solidarity to the Government and people of Turkey on the kidnapping of Turkish diplomatic personnel in Mosul and wishes to see their immediate and safe release.

2. At this juncture, allow me to align my statement with that delivered by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Mr. President,

3. The UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is indeed a landmark document. It marked the first time the international community agreed, with one voice, on a common Strategy to address and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations irrespective of where, when or whomever commits it and whatever reasons may be behind it. The four pillars outlined in the Strategy allow us to deal with terrorism in an integrated manner. In this regard, my delegation cannot emphasize enough the importance of giving equal attention to all four pillars of the Strategy. This is something that we have always remain committed to as it is reflected in Malaysia's multifaceted approach in combating terrorism.

4. Malaysia has ratified nine of the 13 international conventions and protocols as well as taken various measures to fulfill its obligations set forth by the General Assembly and Security Council. We are in the midst of taking the necessary legislative measures that would allow us to accede to the remaining conventions and protocols.

5. On the same note, Malaysia has also been continuously working towards enhancing its domestic legal framework to ensure that while remaining committed to the safeguarding the security of the country, the rights of the people would also need to be upheld. This can be seen from the application of the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012 or, in short, SOSMA, which came into force on 31 July 2012 and replaces the Internal Security Act of 1960. SOSMA provides special measures relating to security offences for the purpose of maintaining public order and security. In addition, it also provides for the procedural and evidential rule pertaining to subversive offences prescribed under Chapter VI and VIA of the Penal Code, with the latter specifically formulated to criminalize terrorist acts.

6. Malaysia also amended the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 last year to include measures to combat against terrorism financing. Following the amendment, the Act has been renamed the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001 (AMLATFA). The amended legislation comprehensively provides for the freezing of terrorist funds and for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1267 and to a larger extent, resolution 1373.

7. In the area of capacity building, Malaysia established the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) in 2003 with the sole purpose of enhancing capacity building and extending technical assistance at the international level. Since its inception up until June 2014, the Centre has conducted 137 capacity building programmes attended by 2,861 local and 1,256 foreign participants. SEARCCT works closely with many other countries as well as international organizations such as the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on various aspects of counter-terrorism.

Mr. President,

8. In the region, cooperation in combating terrorism primarily takes place within the framework of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). The AMMTC discusses the framework of cooperation and oversees the implementation of activities to combat the problem, including the sharing of intelligence and working with external partners to counter the threat. In addition, the annual ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) would implement and review the decisions made at the AMMTC as well as to recommend new projects and explore further areas of cooperation.

9. The signing of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) in Manila in 2007 by all ASEAN Member Countries has turned it into the primary framework for ASEAN cooperation in combating terrorism. All ASEAN Member Countries have ratified the Convention, which not only serves as a regional framework for counter-terrorism, but also complements the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, international conventions on counter terrorism and relevant UN resolutions.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia welcomes some additional elements included in this year's biennial review including greater emphasis on pillar one of the Strategy. While we call for equal attention to be given to the four pillars, it is without a doubt that there is a need for greater consideration and focus on conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure. On this, Malaysia continues to take various measures to eradicate hardcore poverty and ensure the population enjoys equitable economic growth. We have also ensured that our expenditure on education continuously exceeds 20 percent of the annual national budget. Malaysia also believes on the undeniable need to allow those living under oppression their most fundamental right to life and liberty with dignity and hope.

Mr. President,

11. Terrorism must not be equated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. In fact, too often have we witnessed violent extremists dressing their causes and hiding their political goals behind the mask of religion, to make them more appealing and legitimate. When this happens, it is the obligation of all peace-loving people, including those of the same faith, to discredit them. When extremists who kill innocent civilians are engaged in misusing their faith in this manner, it is our duty to challenge and expose them for what they truly are – violent extremists or terrorists.

12. It is due to this realization that Malaysia's Prime Minister called for a Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) at the 65th UN General Assembly. In the General Debate of September last year, the Prime Minister repeated his call, which is, for the silent majority of moderates, whom have been appalled by the despicable acts of extremists and terrorists, to occupy the mainstream. It is a clarion call for rational, peace loving people of all races, cultures, and beliefs, to make our voices louder and to reclaim the center stage, and to drown the voices of hate and extremism that have been perpetuated by a mere handful. It is an avenue that supports a voice of reason, understanding, tolerance and respect. We believe it would contribute significantly in our common effort to defeat terrorism.

Mr .President,

13. While we take a step back and examine progress made, we must also look forward to what lies ahead. On this, my delegation appreciates the additional aspects of counter-terrorism efforts included in this biennial review. We are supportive of, among others, language on kidnapping for ransom, strengthened language on the need to fight the financing of terrorism, and on the misuse of information and communications technologies by terrorists. Without a doubt, the fourth biennial review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has brought the international community one step closer to achieving our noble intention to eradicate this ugly scourge. Having said that, we realize that the road ahead is long and winding. Rest assured, Mr. President, of

Malaysia's firm commitment to the journey that would eventually see a world free from terrorism.

I thank you.