Statement by

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Of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations
at the “Third Biennial Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”,

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I thank H.E. Mr. John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada for his speech. Let me also thank Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN, H.E Mr. Guillermo E. Rishchynski, for his role as the Facilitator of current Review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. Our appreciation is also with all the other speakers of today for their expressions of support to UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. However, we would like to highlight few points in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

Terrorism, both in its magnitude and diversity, is one of the gravest challenges not only to international peace and security but also to human security. The adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, vide the UNGA resolution 60/288, was a watershed achievement in the global fight against terrorism. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted to streamline the coordination and coherence of the United Nations counter-terrorism work. The four pillars of the Strategy and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to support its implementation were important steps in that direction.

Bangladesh fully supports the strategy. Bangladesh was the facilitator of the resolution regarding review of this strategy in 2010. I share the view that all the efforts on counter-terrorism under the auspices of the UN should be transparent and implementation should be strengthened. Considering the role of Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) in countering terrorism, we also feel that all the member states of the UN should be briefed more frequently on its activities.

I followed the recommendations of the member states on different PPs and OPs of the draft ‘Follow up Resolution on CT’. I am pleased that all the member states ultimately became able to bridge the gap and finalize the text.

We are pleased at the gradual institutionalization of the CTITF. Bangladesh feels privileged to have partnered with the UN CTITF, a 'Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in South Asia', in Dhaka on May 16-17, 2012.

I welcome the UN Secretary General’s latest Report, entitled, 'United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy' (A/66/762). Briefly, the SG put forward five recommendations for the way forward:
(1) Appointment of a UN Counter Terrorism Coordinator.
(2) Developing national and regional strategy implementation plans.
(3) Enhancing capacity building efforts.
(4) Promoting international cooperation.
(5) Strengthening international solidarity with victims of Terrorism.

Here I appreciate Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s initiative to set up the United Nations Center for Counter-Terrorism, and the contribution made by Saudi Arabia to finance this center for the first three years of its operations, which we believe, would promote international cooperation.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh pursues a value driven foreign policy that promotes peace, democracy, secularism, freedom, human rights, good governance and social justice, and upholds multilateralism. We believe that coupled with these values, our vibrant Bengalee culture, our commitment to education, women empowerment, social inclusion, socio-economic upliftment of our people creating livelihoods, moral and ethical values and a mindset of culture of peace- form excellent counter-radicalization and counter-terrorism strategies and marginalize the extremists, whoever they may be. An inclusive society with empowerment of people cannot go wrong in marginalizing terrorists. Our deep ideological position against terrorism and radicalization is evident in our government's vibrant anti-terrorism and anti-radicalization track record over the last few years.

Bangladesh condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. A party to all 13 universal anti-terrorism instruments, not only Bangladesh's Prime Minster Sheikh Hasina took the initiative to enact the Anti Terrorism Act and the Anti-money laundering Act in 2009, and within a record two years we laboriously upgraded both laws to (Anti-Terrorism (amendment) Act-2012 and Money Laundering Prevention (amendment) Act-2012) make them fully compliant with all provisions of the UNCTC and the UNCFT. To strengthen these national actions to curb these trans-boundary crimes we have also ratified the Palermo Convention last year. A National CT Strategy has been finalized. Our government has been following and will continue to follow a “zero tolerance” policy towards terrorism and religious extremism. We have made history in the world by penalizing both categories to face legal consequences and death penalty. Our Government has banned all the terrorist groups designated by the UNSC 1267 Committee, and dismantled their networks. We remain confident but not complacent, that ideologically as a nation we hold a strong forte against terrorist and extremist elements that are involved in international terrorism. We are determined to continue our crusade against both categories of criminals without any compromise.

Mr. President,
International terrorism is a trans-boundary crime and the best and the most logical way to address it is through continually strengthening our regional and global cooperation mechanisms in dealing with this menace.

The root causes of terrorism including economic disparity, political and economic exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, unfair and non-judicious treatment and intolerance of certain groups of people, deprivation and discrimination and climatically induced loss of livelihood must be addressed in this discourse. At the same time respect for human Rights and for the Rule of Law must prevail over any fight against terrorism. Any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group should be avoided. The Media must be used effectively to create awareness of our resolve to fight terrorism and our means to do so. The world should strive for a universal agreement on legal definition of terrorism while a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism together with a distinction for people's legitimate struggle for independence from foreign occupation should be concluded early. We also believe that the UN is the only legitimate multilateral body capable of coordinating global action against terrorism. National capacity building, and training of CT personnel of developing countries and LDCs such as Bangladesh, must remain high on the agenda of the UN and the partners for effective combating of terrorism by all states.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh would continue to consciously promote innovative socio-economic interventions including attainment of UN MDGs, sustained economic growth, social safety nets for inclusion of excluded people, micro-credit based livelihoods for women, people’s empowerment and job creation for all and a strong legal-institutional regime to counter causes of terrorism and extremism.

In conclusion, I would like to re-iterate that the comprehensiveness of the Strategy gives it a unique status as a document, but it is only through effective and integrated implementation of the Strategy, in all its aspects, that we could defeat terrorism. Bangladesh reaffirms its support for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

I thank you all.