



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR MUHAMMAD SHAHRUL IKRAM YAAKOB
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF
COUNTER-TERRORISM AGENCIES OF MEMBER STATES
NEW YORK, 28-29 JUNE 2018**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me thank the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres for convening the first High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States under the UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT). Malaysia sees this meeting as timely and is appreciative of the work undertaken by the UNOCT since its inception a year ago. We commend Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, in providing strategic leadership to UN counter-terrorism efforts.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. The theme of this conference and the topic of this session “Strengthening global action to prevent violent extremism, including by engaging youth and preventing misuse of new technologies and the Internet by terrorists” is indeed relevant.

3. Malaysia believes that it is important to realise that preventing violent extremism requires commitment and determination from all countries as it had affected all, one way or another, from the loss and injury of innocent lives to the damages of public property, infrastructure and cultural heritage.

4. Regrettably, we are witnessing the growing influence of extremists who seek to divide our communities. They breed hate and create disharmony through their extremist ideologies that serve their own agenda. Defeating them requires the concerted and collective efforts at all levels.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Recognising that counter-terrorism is also a 'battle of ideas,' Malaysia, through the Southeast Asia Regional Centre on Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT), engages with the youth, particularly university undergraduates, to make them understand and to speak to them on the dangers of radicalisation. The aim is to create 'mental firewalls' so as to counter radical ideologies in the event that they are exposed to such ideas.

6. In appealing to the youth, we conduct several specifically-designed capacity building programmes to empower undergraduate leaders to promote positive messages against terrorist narratives. The programmes are designed to invoke a sense of responsibility among them in countering the terrorist threat on a peer-to-peer level.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Malaysia is also active in disseminating counter-narratives on digital platforms on a regular basis. Thus far, SEARCCT has designed and produced hundreds of digital counter/alternative narrative products, which include digital banners, videos and digital comics on major social media platforms.

8. This is an effort, through the establishment of the Digital Strategic Communications Division (DSCD), which utilises soft approaches to counter terrorism to mitigate radicalisation and recruitment in the Southeast Asia region, particularly those carried out on the Internet.

9. Malaysia also established the Counter-Messaging Centre (CMC) under the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) to counter the digital menace orchestrated by the terrorists, with the element of enforcement. Malaysia hopes that with this comprehensive approach, we will be able to contest the 'digital spaces' and address the 'content imbalance' that is presently very much in favour of the terrorists.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Counter terrorist measures are more effective with a deradicalisation programme. Malaysia has already developed a module; "Integrated Deradicalisation Module for Detainees" which is now used as a guideline by our agencies involved in the deradicalisation programme in Malaysia, with a view to address the religious misconceptions of the radicals and subsequently to reintegrate them to the mainstream.

11. This module is conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prison Department of Malaysia and Royal Malaysia Police. Malaysia is ready and willing to share our experience and expertise in implementing the Module with other countries.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. Malaysia welcomes the successful adoption of Resolution A/72/L.62 on the sixth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) a few days ago. Malaysia will continue to work closely with UNOCT and other Member States in implementation of the Strategy. Malaysia renews its unwavering commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat the scourge of terrorism.

13. Malaysia also recalls and welcomes the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Preventing Violent Extremism as recognised by the Strategy. It provides the basic framework for Member States in developing their own national plan in PVE, focusing on the prevention element, an approach practised by Malaysia in addressing violent extremism.

14. As recommended by the UN, Malaysia is developing its own national action plan for PVE and works closely with the Aqaba Process Taskforce and its international partners in promoting regional and international cooperation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. Malaysia joins other Member States in our common endeavour to enhance the work of the UNOCT and support its important initiatives. Malaysia looks forward to various areas of cooperation, bolster existing partnerships and foster new partnerships to further the goals and initiatives of the Office, in our collective efforts to strengthen international peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.