MYANMAR

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Statement by

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On Agenda Item 109
"Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"

Before the Sixth Committee of the
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Mr. Chairman,

1. Since I am taking the floor for the first time, let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Committee. I would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation to you in the courses of discharging your responsibility.

2. My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statements made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Terrorism remains a serious global threat to mankind inflicting untold suffering and loss of lives throughout the world. The threat of terrorism has even become more formidable with the recent rise of violent extremism and terrorist attacks. International terrorists and violent extremists aim to create a climate of fear, and inflict maximum damage and suffering. They aim to divide and tear apart our communities, and destroy the social fabric of our societies.

4. Myanmar stands together with the rest of the world in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We cannot condone terrorism. We have to work together to fight against terrorism. Taking this opportunity, I would like to commend the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for its important role in providing technical assistance to the Member States in countering terrorism.

5. Countering financing terrorism is also the area we should pay more attention on. We thank the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and its Working Groups for their works.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We strongly believe that only one, we can successfully overcome discussion. In this spirit, Myanmar is collaborating with countries around the globe, particularly with ASEAN fellow countries, in efforts to countering terrorism. Myanmar ratified (11), out of (16) UN Conventions related to counter-terrorism. Myanmar is working actively in ASEAN Intelligence Community-Counter terrorism Committee (AIC-CTC). Anti-Money Laundering Law and Counter-Terrorism Law were enacted in Myanmar in March and June 2014, respectively. Accordingly, Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) and Counter-Terrorism Department were set up under the Myanmar Police Force. Relevant central committees have been established for effective implementation of the provisions of the Laws. We thank the IMF for its technical assistance to Myanmar for national risk assessment process which is schedule to complete in 2017.

7. Myanmar is also closely working with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). According to the Mutual Evaluation Process of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering, Myanmar will receive the visit of the Onsite Visit Mission in November 2017 to access the implementation of Technical Compliance and Effectiveness on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Myanmar is not immune to the act of terrorism. The violent and coordinated attacks in October and November 2016 and recently on 25 August 2017 in Northern Rakhine State are vivid examples. These attacks were claimed by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorist group. According to the confession of the arrested terrorist suspects, some people and organizations from abroad are providing financial aid to the ARSA terrorists. On 25th August 2017, the Government of Myanmar declared the ARSA and its supporters, responsible for the acts of terrorism, as a terrorist group in accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Law of 2014.

9. The ARSA terrorist group has been targeting not only security forces but also innocent civilians. A mass grave of 45 Hindu villagers including women and children, who were cruelly and brutally killed by the ARSA, was discovered by the authorities last month in the northern Rakhine State. They are among the 93 Hindu villagers who have been reported missing since the attacks on 25 August.

10. The recent attacks have led to widespread fear and subsequent displacement of all communities, not just Muslim and Rakhine, but also small minority groups such as Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus. Most of the world has been unaware of the existence and plight of these small groups.

11. The Government of Myanmar strongly condemns these terrorist acts and will do all in its power to prevent them from occurring again. It will strive to bring the perpetrators to justice. The government is working to ensure that acts of terrorism will not distract us from pursuing the long term strategy that is necessary to address the complex challenges in Rakhine State today.

12. We must stand together to remove the scourge of terrorism.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.