

**Ms. Faizunnesa (Bangladesh):**

I would like to thank you and your delegation, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate and for the informative concept note (S/2016/416, annex). Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of Kuwait on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Terrorism and violent extremism thrive on a set of corrosive narratives and ideologies. The true essence and understanding of any religion, nurtured and practiced over centuries, can hardly justify the skewed, fragmented and exploitative narratives propagated by terrorists and violent extremists. The international community must remain invested in preserving and promoting the core, mainstream message of peace, mutual respect and tolerance that lies at the heart of all religions. The misguided appeal of the messages of terrorists and violent extremists demands a cautious, context-specific and well-calibrated approach, marked by the active participation and ownership of religious leaders and establishments, civil-society organizations and the media, among others. It must be underpinned by a broader pursuit of a culture of peace and non-violence across the entire social spectrum.

We also need an objective assessment of the sense of deprivation, discrimination and exploitation at the national and international levels that terrorists and violent extremists tend to use to justify their self-serving agenda and means. It will be critical to demonstrate sincere and meaningful efforts to address such grievances with no discrimination or equivocation. It is unfortunate that the empowering tools of information and communications technology have assumed an unwelcome dimension in the hands of terrorists and violent extremists. Terrorists' smart use of social media and other online platforms has enabled them to suitably package and disseminate their messages, establish links with potential sympathizers across borders, recruit foreign terrorist fighters and often conduct their organized criminal activities with impunity.

In Bangladesh, we remain committed to addressing such emerging threats and challenges in a focused and determined manner and to building on our achievements in tackling terrorism and violent extremism, including through broader community engagement and enhanced capacity-building at the institutional level. In the light of our experience in that regard, we would like to emphasize five specific points.

First, the international response to terrorist and violent extremist narratives must be comprehensive and go beyond simply securitizing the discourse. In view of the various dynamics of radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism, we need nuanced responses, short- and long-term initiatives, hard and soft approaches and inclusive and participatory mechanisms for customizing responses in accordance with local needs.

Secondly, there must be a robust, consensus-based understanding among law-enforcement and prosecution authorities, information-technology companies, social-media administrators and human rights actors that can ensure appropriate filtering of and sanctions against online terrorist and violent extremist narratives and outlets, while respecting people's rights to access, privacy and freedom of expression.

Thirdly, we must focus on education at various levels, if we are to embed the right narratives of religion, culture and identity as part of global-citizenship education initiatives. We must be vigilant with regard to the creeping intrusion of violent extremist messages and propaganda into higher education. We emphasize the importance of continuing to work on developing curriculum standards for the religious education of the various denominations.

Fourthly, it will be crucial to give due consideration to the impact of terrorist and violent extremist ideologies on women in affected communities. We must revisit the traditional approaches, in which women are seen as victims of terrorism and violent extremism, and further explore their potential roles as agents of prevention, resilience and change at the community level — and even as perpetrators.

Fifthly, an effective strategic response aimed at countering terrorist and violent extremist narratives must reject any form of racial or xenophobic — particularly Islamophobic — attitudes and categorization. We are particularly concerned about the added vulnerability of migrants and others in need of international protection, a problem that deserves further consideration at the global level.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to emphasize its support for any initiative by the Council, in coordination with the General Assembly, aimed at developing a comprehensive international strategy to address, with a sense of urgency, the deepening threats of terrorist and violent extremist ideologies.

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