74th UNGA

Leaders’ Dialogue on Strategic Responses to Terrorist and Violent Extremist Narratives

Statement

by

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Prime Minister of India

23 September 2019
Your Majesty the King of Jordan,
President Macron,
Prime Minister Ardern,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,

Very good afternoon to all of you.

Many thanks to all the hosts for this important dialogue.

Excellencies,

We are all victims of terrorism. And therefore understand terrorism comprehensively and also know the importance of effective strategic response against it.

Excellencies,

Terrorists depend on opportunity, resources and motivation for attacks.

In order to ensure that the terrorist entities and networks do not get the opportunity to plan an attack, we have intelligence sharing through bilateral and regional frameworks. However, I would like to suggest a qualitative upgradation in the ongoing cooperation. Can we think about institutionalizing counter terrorism cooperation at the multilateral level? India will work towards enhance the ongoing cooperation in capacity building of friendly countries in this area.

The second thing is resources. There is no bank for terrorists and terrorists do not have ordnance facilities. They should not be allowed to get funds and arms. For this to be done effectively, we need to avoid politicization of mechanisms like UN listings and FATF. These mechanisms need to be enforced, strengthened.

Excellencies,

Even by taking these actions we will be only be putting up a few hurdles for terrorist entities but will not be able to eliminate terrorism. For this, attention has to be paid to as to what is the source for terrorist inspiration. In particular, we must win the fight against the radicalisation of youth.

Excellencies,
India’s experience is that democratic values, diversity and inclusive development are the most important weapons against ideologies that promote terrorism, extremism and radicalism.

In the shadow of India’s own diversity and democratic values, many beliefs have flourished together for thousands of years. Hence, it is not surprising that India’s senior religious leaders have repeatedly voiced their opposition to terrorism.

Excellencies,

Our efforts and narrative against terrorism and extremism can be successful only if it gets public support and recognition. Rejection of terrorism by ordinary citizens is the biggest failure of terrorism.

We must also ensure that a terrorist attack in Africa or in America, in New Zealand or in Nigeria, in Belgium or in Bali or Bangladesh, should be considered terrorism, not good or bad terrorism, no more or no less.

Finally, I thank His Majesty the King of Jordan and all my fellow world leaders associated with this effort today. And I hope that the world has shown solidarity against the challenges like climate change, more than that we will be able to show solidarity and readiness against terrorism.

Terrorism is the biggest violator of the basic fundamental right like right to life. It is the duty of all the leaders to ensure the protection of citizens from terrorism.

Thank you all so very much.