

Intervention by  
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High-Level Meeting on Stemming the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters  
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Before anything else, allow me to thank and commend the Counter Terrorism Committee and the Government of Spain for holding this Special Meeting on such an urgent and important issue. Indeed, stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters cannot but be on top of every country's agenda at this time.

In the Philippines, serious efforts have been and continue to be exerted to address the important issue of terrorism. For example, the Anti-Terrorism Council–Program Management Center, in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), launched an inter-agency collaborative training for effective intelligence, investigation and prosecution of terrorism and terrorism related cases. This largely contributed to the first successful prosecution by the Philippine Department of Justice of the crime of terrorism as defined and penalized under the Human Security Act.

During the technical sessions, some of the panelists were of the view that terrorism cannot be simply solved through a military or a security perspective. The Philippines shares this view. In fact, the Philippines has adopted the “whole of nation approach” in countering terrorism wherein, as prescribed under the Human Security Act, “the State recognizes that the fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, comprising political, economic, diplomatic, military and legal means duly taking into account the root causes of terrorism without acknowledging these as justifications for terrorist and/or criminal activities.”

During the recent Regional Conference on “Effective Responses to the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Asia” organized by UNODC held in Bangkok, Thailand, the Philippines expounded on this point by emphasizing that private sector participation is crucial for an effective counter-terrorism program.

Other programs, including target hardening, counter-radicalization and deradicalization, encouraging economic development especially in critical areas and establishing peace mechanisms are either being implemented or organized to complement the anti-terrorism effort.

In addition, the Philippines formed an inter-agency working group composed of the country's defense, law enforcement, transport, intelligence, diplomatic, legal and peace process institutions to craft a national coordinated response to the phenomenon of FTFs. The working group is tasked with identifying national resources and capabilities, gaps and opportunities for improvement in terms of domestic legislation, border control and management, intelligence-sharing and counter-radicalization, among others. The working group is doing its best to carry out these tasks and thereby enhance our country's capability to stop the rise of foreign terrorist fighters.

However, terrorism is a global phenomenon and terrorists recognize no borders. Thus, international cooperation is imperative and this Special Meeting is definitely a huge step in that direction.

The Philippine Delegation is grateful for the lessons it has learned and the insights it has gained in the course of this Special Meeting. It wishes to thank the delegates for sharing their countries' experiences and best practices in this area. Rest assured that the Philippines shall continue to be part of the global campaign to banish the scourge of terrorism from our world.

Thank you very much.