

Intervention on Terrorism

by Hon. Mr. Apichat Karikanjana

Thai Parliamentary Delegation

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are well aware, terrorist attacks still happen here and there in our region and the world causing damages over assets and countless lost of lives. 9/11 in 2001 was the wake-up call that reflected the advance in potentials of terrorists' movements. Afterwards, many time of big movements were proven well-planned and well-organized; and the world community should not ignore or underestimate them as trivial internal affairs of a single country and leave that country manage the situation itself. Thailand is pleased to see the actual progress of globally joint efforts in cooperating on the suppression of terrorist activities. However, our country's concerns still remain over the terrorists' strategies which are changed to covert operation on the basis of cells in order not to be easily noticed and captured, their radicalization and recruitment of new members and formation of new terrorist groups through internet and publications to vulnerable targets, and the proto-cooperation between terrorists and groups of transnational criminals. Moreover, our country concerns over the possibility, although remote, of local conflicts to become connected to other bigger scale terrorism networks.

Like other countries, Thailand condemns all of terrorist activities and will spare no efforts to prevent and combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism at national, regional and global levels. Even though there has been no evidence of international terrorists using Thailand as their operation base, nor has there been any direct evidence that international terrorist movements are operating in our country, we have never acted as optimism carrier. Our country has policies in preventing and suppressing terrorism. We have promoted capacities-building on counter terrorism areas such as encouragement of public participation in the suppression process by tipping off the State on unusual movements around their neighborhoods; promotion of

intelligence exchanges as well as cooperation in immigration and legal enforcement with countries and international organizations concerned. I would like to take this opportunity to assure all of you that Thailand has no policy to allow terrorists to use our country as their operation base, neither their passing route. Pondering that international efforts are crucial in handling terrorism problems, Thailand will be always pleased to welcome more cooperations at every levels in accordance with UN conventions and protocols on anti-terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In these days of tension over terrorism, I wish to encourage all of you, APPF parliamentarians, that our meeting should play a pivotal role in helping our respective governments tackle with the problem. APPF should not be only a seasonal meeting and our speeches should not be only the gibberishes that bring about nothing tangible. As representatives of our peoples, I am confident that we have potentials to make differences. Therefore, I would like to firstly call for your cooperation in enhancing the respect of the diversities in races, religions and cultures in order remove the outsiders perception. We can replace conflicts with happy coexistence on the basis of equal personalities relationship. Secondly, we should fight against corruption and money laundering as they may open up chances to or support terrorist activities, as well as, follow and block the move of unusual financial streams, especially those from the Grey List countries. To achieve these goals, parliamentarians have to strengthen the legal systems in accordance with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in order to combat money-laundering and financing of terrorist activities. Thirdly, we should support our governments to ratify international anti-terrorism instruments and implement resolutions and related documents in fighting against terrorism under the United Nations framework and with inter-parliamentary organizations. Last but not least, we should ensure that all measures taken to combat terrorism are in line with their obligations under international laws, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian laws.

Thank you very much.
