

Enhance Regional and Global Counter-Terror Cooperation Build a Community of Shared Destiny

A Speech at Counter Terrorism Conference 2016 Jaipur Rajasthan, India

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Currently I am Deputy Secretary General, Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD). It gives me great honor to come to Jaipur, Rajasthan of India to attend the Counter-Terrorism Conference 2016.

1. Current trends of terrorism

A new round of global terror threats by the Daesh as a spearhead is unfolding. Terrorism is posing greater challenge to the civilized world, and has become the most pronounced global security issue.

(1) Concentrated outbreak of global terrorist activities threatens global security. In 2015, global terror threats represented by the Daesh wreaked havoc on countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, and terrorist activities entered a new phase of global expansion. Currently, global terror threats are still accumulating and expanding along geopolitical fault lines, endangering global security. Organizations in Asia and Africa which claim to be affiliations, sub-organizations, branches of the Islamic State or pledge allegiance to it keep emerging, with ever-increasing zealous supporters. The base of terrorism is expanding and threat level increasing. Post 9/11 lines of defense to safeguard national security built by the U.S. and Europe are continually infiltrated, unable to adapt to new forms of "Al Qaeda + Taliban Regime" type of compound terrorist organizations. In the meantime, the threat of Al Qaeda is far from over. Its branches use the chaotic situations in Syria, the Arabian Peninsula and Africa as breeding ground for further expansion, ready to sow discord at any time. We should be wary that as security situation in Afghanistan changes, Al Qaeda is coming back to this region and reconstructing the source of terrorism in South Asia.

(2) Global terrorist activities are upgrading and transforming themselves

with rising levels of harmfulness. At present, terrorism is expanding worldwide, with features including terrorist localization, tactic sophistication, and "lone wolf" type of attacks. Global terror force represented by the Daesh constitutes a extensive, multi-source, and serious threat to global security. First, the Daesh strengthens its military force in Iraq and Syria, builds militarily-controlled bases, expands its influence, establishes tyrannical rule and builds source of global terror. Second, the Daesh sustains its financial pool by land grabbing, tax levying, smuggling, robbing and looting, enabling itself to provide terror financing and war tactic guidance to other regional terrorist groups, thus creating a rippling effect of terror across the globe. Third, Daesh's radical ideology has strong appeal and its tentacles have infiltrated into the world through social networks and audio-visual transmission channels, with the ruthless means of "purification" in occupied areas. It has attracted over 30,000 foreign extremists and terrorists from almost 100 countries to join, and more sympathizers and supporters in Europe, Asia and Africa. It has become a "paradise" for extremists and terrorists. Fourth, movements of foreign jihadists between Iraq and Syria create a global torrent of cross-border movement of extremists and terrorists, who collude with transnational human traffickers and other criminals, impacting security and stability in many countries. Fifth, global networking of the Daesh, European lines of defense continually broken down, coupled with prolonged refugee waves, as well as upgrading and transformation of patterns of terror attacks, have become urgent global agenda.

(3) Terrorism has intricate and complicated root causes, thus is difficult to eradicate in the short term. The immediate

cause of terrorism is continued turmoil in countries in the Middle East and other regions, and the underlying reason is regional instability and uneven development. The prospects of social transitions in many countries in the Middle East and North Africa remain unclear, issues which breeds terrorism keep deteriorating. Terrorism is a crime emanating under the conditions of drastic social changes. It is an extreme expression of some social groups or individuals who cannot understand, respond to or adapt to these changes. During times of turbulent and complicated social changes, lack of social governance exacerbates confrontation between social conflicts. Some youth who could solve their problems through legitimate means, under the appeal of violence culture, are more prone to embarking on an extreme path. Currently, the aftereffects of the Arab Spring in the Middle East and North Africa are still fermenting and unfolding. Countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya broadly face issues of national disorder, political instability, escalation of conflicts, economic recession, exorbitant unemployment, and rampant corruption, all of which cannot be solved overnight. Governments in these countries have little and diminishing military, financial and material resources at their disposal, face numerous difficulties within, and possess weaker border control capabilities, thus providing fertile ground for terrorism.

2. Enhance regional and global counter-terror cooperation

Currently, the international system is undergoing changes, international order restructuring, and international balance of power evolving. Faced with chaos, existing global order shows signs of weakness, incompetence and powerlessness in meeting new challenges and countering new threats. Intertwining of old and new problems makes the international environment increasingly complicated, to which the global control and governance capacities are unable to adapt. Incorrect judgment of, improper handling of and disorderly responses to some issues by major countries in the world have led to intensifying and more complicated problems.

At present, the international community

has increasing consensus on the new threat of global terror, and is stepping up efforts to guard against and counter the Daesh and other terrorist forces. Global counter-terrorism, however, is constrained by geopolitical and other factors. Rooting out terrorism, therefore, remains an arduous task. Some countries apply double standards, resulting in addressing only the symptoms but not the root causes of terrorism. Synergy is yet to be achieved in global counter-terrorism cooperation, and the situation is still rather precarious. The international community, therefore, should further enhance regional and global counter-terrorism cooperation, based on the new concept of security that is common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable.

(1) Play by the rules. There is no good or bad terrorism. Double standard should not be applied. Rather, UN Charter and international laws should be honored. The United Nations is the ideal platform for global counter-terrorism cooperation. Member states should implement relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the global anti-terror strategy adopted at the UN General Assembly, and adopts multiple measures to counter terrorism.

(2) Discharge duties. Nations should implement the anti-terror resolution of the UN Security Council, cut off financing channels of those involved in terrorism, mount attacks on cyber terrorism, and contain the dissemination of radical ideas.

(3) Promote coordination and cooperation. For a period to come, global anti-terror priority lies in the Middle East, but the threat of terrorism is not limited to the Middle East, and the Daesh is not the only source of terror. Cross-regional connections and movements between terrorist organizations will be more frequent, which requires coordinated efforts of the international community to deal with. The UN should play a leading role in coordinating anti-terror efforts of nations. The international community should forge consensus in the real sense, desert prejudice, give up double standard, and engage in a protracted warfare on global terrorist and radical forces.

(4) Address both the symptoms and the root causes. Hot spot issues should be resolved

through political means. Harmony and peaceful co-existence between religions, communities should be promoted to achieve common development and remove breeding ground for terrorism. Terrorism, among other issues in the world, comes into being as a result of poverty, backwardness and social injustice, because of which people see no hope and have no confidence in the future of their countries. These issues should be resolved in and by development. The whole picture should be kept in mind, with focuses on balance and comprehensive implementation of policies.

3. China's anti-terror policies

As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council and a major country in the world, China has the responsibility and ability to carry out the mission of fighting against global terror and safeguarding justice and security. China is also directly targeted by the Daesh and other terrorist forces. To deal with new threats of global terror under new situations, China, while focusing on guarding against the threat posed by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), will work with relevant countries and take concrete measures to safeguard its interests in accordance with the documents of the UN Security Council and the spirit embodied in them.

First, the principal menace of the new round of terrorism, with complicated background, lies in the Middle East. Reasons for the emergence and rise of the Daesh include conflicts between religions, between communities and between nations, as well as military intervention in Iraq and Syria by external forces. Eradicating violence and saving the Middle East from chaos, therefore, requires holistic and coordinated efforts to gradually restore stability in the Middle East. China will, in its own way, step up economic, anti-terror and security assistance to relevant countries in the Middle East, and improve the anti-terror strength of countries along the Belt and Road while implementing the Belt and Road initiative.

Second, China must accord high priority to the terrorism threat posed by the ETIM, take concrete steps to solidify defense lines of national security, cut off links between ETIM

terrorists and terrorist groups like the Daesh and Al Qaeda, and jointly build mechanisms for the prevention of transnational movements of terrorists with relevant countries.

Third, counter-terrorism is high on China's national security agenda. China will maintain its strategic focus, and work with relevant countries on strengthening counter-terror intelligence sharing and taking precautions. China will place more emphasis on cooperation with neighboring countries, improve security cooperation under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, between China and Pakistan, as well as between China and Southeast Asian countries, counter transnational organized crimes, and guard against nuclear and biochemical terrorist threats.

4. Step up China-India counter-terrorism cooperation

China and India both face the threat of terrorism. Effectively containing and countering terrorism has become a major issue with a bearing on national security and social stability for both countries. Strengthening counter-terror cooperation and fighting against terrorism together is in the fundamental interests of both peoples. It is also one important area in which the two countries may deepen strategic cooperation and military ties.

China and India both support UN's efforts in countering global terrorism, and stand by all nations in their fight against terrorism. At present, key areas for deeper China-India anti-terror cooperation are as follows:

(1) Strengthen anti-terror intelligence-sharing. Intelligence determines success of anti-terror moves. No nation has sufficient military strength to defeat terrorists, but the key lies in knowing their whereabouts precisely. Two types of peoples need to be closely watched in gathering anti-terror intelligence, one being heads of terrorist groups with radical religious ideas, and the second being extremists with experience of using weapons.

(2) Establish terror threat early warning system. Both countries should issue early warning instructions and activate early warning systems based on levels of the threat of terror. China and India have both set up similar anti-terror mechanisms, (Continued to page 58)