

Country Statement
by the High Commissioner of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Masood Khalid
ASEAN Regional Forum's 9th Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on
Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crimes (ARF ISM-CTTC),
(30 May 2011)

**Excellency Ambassador Ahmad Shahizan Abdul Samad,
Director General (ASEAN)**

**Excellency Ambassador Takaaki Kojima, Ambassador in Charge
of International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Japan**

Excellencies

And

**Distinguished Representatives of the ASEAN Regional Forum's
member States**

At the outset, I would like to thank our hosts Malaysia and co-host Japan for organizing this Inter-Sessional Meeting.

2. I can understand that the participants of this meeting would be keen to know about the incidents that have occurred in Pakistan in the past few weeks. The details of the incidents have been extensively covered by wire agencies and electronic media. In this regard, I can only reiterate that the matters are receiving top priority and being investigated at the highest level in Pakistan. These include the Parliament, the relevant Ministries and the Defence Committee of the Cabinet under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. What I can share, as part of our official position, is that the authorities have resolved that:

- (i) Coordinated efforts will be made to prevent and pre-empt acts of terrorism.

- ii) Security, defence and law enforcement agencies will be authorized to use all means necessary to eliminate terrorists and militants
 - iii) National security is the foremost priority and all arms of the government will ensure that terrorists hideouts are destroyed using all appropriate means.
 - iv) The national consensus on eliminating terrorism will be implemented through a well coordinated and comprehensive strategy with the full support of the people and state institutions at all levels.
3. As regards the recent attack on Mehran Naval base in Karachi a full investigation has been ordered on this terrorist attack. Each terrorist attack reinforces our national resolve to eliminate this menace.

Distinguished participants

4. Concerns have also been expressed about the safety and security of our strategic assets. Any speculation in this regard is totally unwarranted. Under the National Command and Control Authority, we have put in place an effective command and control system for ensuring the safety and security of our nuclear weapons and related systems. These arrangements conform with the highest international standards and practices followed by other nuclear weapon states.

5. Coming to the themes of this Inter-Sessional Meeting, may I mention that Pakistan is implementing UN resolution 1267 (1999) and all subsequent resolutions related to counter-terrorism. In order to ensure smooth implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, Pakistan has devised a comprehensive legal framework and law enforcement strategy to counter-terrorism. We give effect to UNSC decisions through the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948. Statutory Regulatory Orders (S.R.O's) are issued to provide legal cover for implementing sanctions and measures under Security Council Resolutions, including measures such as freezing funds and financial resources, arms embargo and travel ban. Pakistan became

a State Party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism on 17 July 2009. State Bank of Pakistan has taken measures to check financing of terrorist activities (so far 128 bank accounts and Rs. 750 million have been frozen by SBP). Several laws/regulations have been enacted on terrorism and transnational crimes.

6. A Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) has been established in accordance with the Anti-Money Laundering Ordinance to monitor suspicious financial transactions. Pakistan is an active member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), which endeavours for the adoption, implementation and enforcement of internationally accepted anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards. Pakistan is implementing comprehensive international standards embodied in the 40 recommendations on money laundering and 9 special recommendations on terrorist financing of the Financial Actions Task Force (FATF). Money laundering is an extraditable offence. We have signed Extradition Treaties with 29 countries and bilateral agreements on terrorism and security related issues with 50 countries.

7. Pakistan has been the most serious victim of post 9/11 events. We have lost more than thirty thousand civilians and 5000 personnel of the security forces in the ongoing effort to combat terrorism. Our economic losses exceed \$58 billion. It has also severely impacted upon our social and political harmony apart from security situation.

8. Pakistan has deployed about 150,000 Pakistani troops/security personnel on its border with Afghanistan and has set up 1000 border posts to interdict Al-Qaida/Taliban members. We have apprehended more than 700 Al-Qaida operatives and affiliates including some of its top leaders.

9. Our message to terrorists is clear and unequivocal. We would not allow our territory to be used by terrorists and we would not be daunted by terrorist threats. It is unfair to blame Pakistan or its state institutions for being in cahoots with the Al-Qaeda. It was Al-Qaeda and its affiliates that carried out hundreds of suicide bombings in nearly every town and city of Pakistan as well as attacks on state institutions. Allegations of complicity are emphatically rejected by us.

10. Pakistan has always been forthcoming in extending cooperation to the international community in countering terrorism. We believe that this cooperation should be based on mutual trust and mutual respect. We welcome the statement by His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Malaysia that measures against terrorism should not infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and terrorism should not be associated with any race, culture or religion. It is important to resolve conflicts which contribute to terrorism.

Distinguished participants

11. We are now entering a defining phase in the struggle against terrorists and for reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process for peace and reconciliation. Our engagement with regional states and major powers has intensified. There is certainly the need for coherence and a wholesome response to the unique and emerging challenges. Our geo-strategic positioning impels us to shoulder responsibilities for the cause of global peace.

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12. Pakistan hopes that the international community will show greater understanding of the exceptional circumstances in which our armed forces and security personnel are fighting against terrorists and extremists and will lend their full support to these efforts.
