

**Secretary General's Special Remarks  
at the Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on the Cooperation on Countering  
Radicalization and Terrorism, 02 December 2021, India [Virtual]**

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- **Mr. T. V. Ravichandran, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India;**
- **Heads of delegations and distinguished delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning and greetings from Dhaka!!

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for giving the opportunity to speak in the opening session of the Second **BIMSTEC Sub-Group Meeting on the Cooperation on Countering Radicalization and Terrorism**. It is indeed an honour.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of India, in particular, the Ministry of Home Affairs, for hosting this Sub-Group Meeting virtually today.

We are very happy that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting on Cooperation on Countering Radicalization and Terrorism is taking place today. It was long overdue, further delay could have diluted the relevance and loose continuity as the first Sub Group Meeting was held 2 and half years back in June 2019.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

Peace and stability as we all know are very important for our region – and necessary pre-conditions, for any economic development and social progress.

BIMSTEC, since its establishment in 1997 has been advocating for peaceful and progressive development in the region.

The BIMSTEC Leaders, during their Summits, also reiterated several times, their commitment to combat terrorism- and called upon all Member States to devise approaches to prevent financing of terrorism and terrorist actions, block recruitment and cross-border movement of terrorists, countering radicalization and countering misuse of internet for purposes of terrorism.

Taking note of this, the 8<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held in Dhaka in December 2005 added Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) as one of the priority sectors of BIMSTEC.

Subsequently, the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting decided to create a Sub Group on Cooperation on Countering Radicalization and Terrorism under the CounterTerrorism and Transnational Crime sector to give more importance on terrorism.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

While the tasks to prevent and reduce terrorism are continuing under various programs of CounterTerrorism & Transnational Crime sector, we are also happy to inform you that some tangible and significant progresses in this sector have been made.

The BIMSTEC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking ratified by all Member States and which entered into force on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 is now in the process of implementation.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (which is about 7 days back), has agreed to identify nodal agencies in the member states to begin implementing this convention.

Very soon, the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters will also be signed in the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit.

**To conclude,** we hope today's Meeting will finalize the Concept Note and the Terms of Reference of this Sub Group on Cooperation on Countering Radicalization and Terrorism. With this outcome from the meeting today, we anticipate this Sub Group to be more progressive and moving forward like other Sub Groups.

Lastly, I would like to assure that the Secretariat is fully committed to extend our support to the Member States and the Meeting today.

We look forward to a fruitful deliberation.

Thank you.

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