

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
External Publicity Wing
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Press Release

Foreign Secretary's participation at the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

21 February 2014, Washington DC: “Bangladesh would continue to proactively engage with all international efforts to countering terrorism and extremism nationally and globally, in line with its “ zero tolerance policy’ towards terrorist acts in all its forms and manifestations”, said Foreign Secretary, Md. Shahidul Haque at the Second Steering Group Meeting of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) held yesterday in Washington DC. Reaffirming the present government’s political commitment to countering terrorism and militancy, the Foreign Secretary stated that over the last 4 years Bangladesh has made tremendous strides in strengthening its national legislative and institutional framework for compliance with global standards to prevent terrorism and financing of terrorism, while successfully containing radicalization through the promotion of tolerant and inclusive socio-cultural values and development.

On the question of the proposed Global Fund, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary stated, “Bangladesh has always championed national ownership of all global funds and programmes and as a member of the Steering Group would pursue country-led GCERF mechanisms that promote public, private and civil society partnerships for building resilience and capacity of grass roots communities in preventing extremism and violence”.

The second meeting of the Steering Group of the GCERF, a Global Fund launched last September at the sidelines of the 68th UNGA in New York under co-chairmanship of the United States and Switzerland as an initiative of the 30 member Global Counter Terrorism Forum, aims to promote greater community engagement globally in countering violent extremism.

The Foreign Secretary led a 4 member Bangladesh delegation to the GCERF Meeting comprising Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed and senior officials of

the Foreign Ministry. The GCERF meeting was part of the three day United States tour of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque.