

STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON AGENDA
ITEM 106: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE & AGENDA ITEM 107:
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 62ND
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 11, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary-General for his reports on Agenda items 106 and 107 on 'Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice', and 'International Drug Control'.

The World Drug Report 2007 points to remarkable progress made by Southeast Asia in eliminating sources of supply of heroin, as poppy cultivation in the area stands reduced by more than 85% over the last decade. The declining trend in global coca cultivation and cocaine manufacture continued during 2006. There are, however, serious concerns over concentration of opium production in Afghanistan – accounting for 92% of global opium production in 2006. As the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) pointed out last week, '75% of the Afghan opium is cultivated in southern Afghanistan ... in the regions controlled by the Taliban'. There is an urgent need for the international community, together with UN agencies particularly UNODC, to act earnestly to eliminate illicit drug production as it poses an enormous threat to the social and economic fabric of the countries affected.

Mr. Chairman,

The Report of the UN Secretary-General points to significant progress made by Member States in many sectors of the Political Declaration and related measures adopted by the 20th Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem. The UN Secretary-General also highlights areas requiring immediate action, such as comprehensive monitoring systems to prevent trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, higher levels of international technical and financial assistance to most vulnerable countries and improved data collection and evaluation capacity. In the context of the review in 2008 of the progress towards achieving the goals and targets set at the 20th UNGA Special Session, all relevant stakeholders including Member States should identify the challenges still confronting them so that collective strategies could be devised to effectively address them in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains one of the major challenges to international peace and

security. It undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy, enjoyment of human rights and the continued existence of open and democratic societies. India continues to be subject to heinous terrorist attacks in which innocent civilians became victims. These incidents reinforce the importance of a strong international resolve and a coordinated global approach to confront the threat posed by terrorism.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006 was a noteworthy development, signaling the will of the international community to combat this menace in a holistic and coordinated manner. There is much more that needs to be done to combat the menace of international terrorism.

The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has emphasized that "the specter of international terrorism is one such phenomenon evolving out of the churning that has accompanied globalization processes. It is imperative to contend with both trans-border, regional and global ramifications of local problems as well as the reverse. In devising strategies to meet trans-border challenges, we must now consider ways of evolving multinational strategies." Without the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism, the global struggle against terrorism will remain incomplete. We must ensure that there is zero tolerance for all forms of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the growing activities of UNODC in counter-terrorism efforts, especially its technical assistance activities at the national, regional and international levels, within the framework of its global project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism. UNODC's work has contributed significantly to increasing the number of countries that have ratified all twelve universal legal instruments relating to terrorism. The focus of technical assistance activities of UNODC is shifting from the phase of ratification support to the phase of legislative implementation and support for national counter-terrorism capacity building for criminal justice systems. We recognize that there is a mismatch between the demands placed on UNODC for implementation assistance, as more countries ratify more international instruments, and the resources at its disposal. We, therefore, support increased resource allocation for UNODC counter-terrorism activities from the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

Permit me Mr. Chairman at this juncture, to express our support for the point made by Jamaica in their statement on behalf of CARICOM on the closure of the UNODC's Office in the region, which continues to be affected by "transnational crime and the international drug trade". While efforts are underway to increase the UNODC's overall resources, it should utilize the resources it has optimally. Also financial efficiency is not the only criterion. UNODC is a specialized agency of the UN created to serve the interests of Member States, including the smallest and most vulnerable. Hence, it has to revisit this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

India has been examining the need to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure for ensuring fair and speedy justice and further streamlining the criminal justice system. During the last two years, significant changes have been made so as to improve and strengthen the investigative and prosecution machinery and process,

streamline procedures, especially trial court procedures, address the problems of under-trials, systematize the procedures concerning grant of bail, and put in place a comprehensive scheme for compensation of victims. Amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure have also been made to prohibit the arrest of women after sunset and before sunrise and to provide special protection in respect of women victims.

India is a signatory to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, and is taking steps towards their ratification. Bilateral agreements have been entered into for developing joint programmes to prevent money laundering, to counter terrorism, and organised crime. Domestic legislation has been strengthened further with the enactment of the Money Laundering Act. India has also signed the UN Convention against Corruption.

Mr. Chairman,

The close nexus between trans-national organised crime, illicit drugs, money laundering and illegal arms transactions, on the one hand, and international terrorism on the other, significantly undermines international peace and security. To move towards a world free of illicit drugs and of narco-terrorism would require concerted efforts at national, regional and international levels. India remains fully committed to working closely with other countries, bilaterally and through regional and international cooperation, to address trans-national organised crime, illicit drugs, money laundering and illegal arms transactions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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