

STATEMENT BY SHRI ARUN JAITLEY,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT && MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON
AGENDA ITEM 110 “MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 08, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I congratulate you for your election as the Chairperson of the Sixth Committee. I also congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of full cooperation and support of the Indian delegation during the proceedings of the Committee.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/68/180 dated 23 July 2013 entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”.



Mr. Chairman,

The international community is continuously facing a grave challenge from terrorism. It is a scourge that undermines peace, democracy and freedom. It endangers the foundation of democratic societies. Terrorists are waging an asymmetric warfare against the international community, and are a major most threat to the international peace and security.

India holds the firm view that no cause whatsoever or grievance could justify terrorism. India condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, including the State-sponsored cross-border

terrorism, and reiterates the call for the adoption of a holistic approach that ensures zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

India strongly supports all efforts, especially within the purview of the United Nations that strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The success in the fight against terrorism goes hand-in-hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level. India has been in the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts and is part of all major global initiatives against international terrorism, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Mr. Chairman,

The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is a unique and universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. The setting up of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in 2010 has provided an institutional framework to support the implementation of the Strategy as well as the harmonization of an integrated counter-terrorism approach within the UN system.

An effective and balanced implementation of the Strategy requires greater international and regional cooperation. In this context, we also count on the UN Counter Terrorism Center established within the CTITF Office, to supplement these efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly favour the strengthening of the normative framework at the United Nations to effectively deal with the scourge of terrorism. We continue to stress the need for expanding the scope of the legal instruments and the enforcement efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and support networks and to bring the terrorists to justice.

In this context, we attach significance to the work undertaken by the Ad-hoc Committee towards negotiations of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). In our view, the 2007 package submitted by the Coordinator of the Ad-hoc Committee presents a viable and, delicately balanced text of the Convention. At its 16th session in April this year, the Ad-hoc Committee has recommended for the establishment of a working group of the Sixth Committee during the 69th UNGA session, with a view to finalizing the process on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We reiterate our support to the Coordinator's text and are hopeful that all States, considering the seriousness of the threat of the menace of terrorism and the importance of the measures to deal therewith, will consider according their acceptance to the text of the draft Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that in addition to the law enforcement measures, the preventive aspect is equally important. Focus on development, education, social integration, tolerance, rule of law and respect for human rights are the integral components of such an approach.

Mr. Chairman,

My own country, India, has faced the scourge of terrorism for over two-and-a-half decades. Indeed, our entire region, has been wracked by the activities of the biggest terrorist actors in the world, be they Al-Qaida, elements of Taliban or Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jamat-ud Daawa and others. Terrorism, extremism and radicalization continue to pose a serious challenge to peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

Within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), we have the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of 1987, and its Additional Protocol of 2004 on the financing of terrorism, and the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 2008. India is working with fellow SAARC nations to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of India has taken important steps towards strengthening its strategic, legal and operational framework in the fight against terrorism. India is a party to 13 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

Among the national legislations, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act incorporates provisions dealing with all aspects of terrorism including conspiracy and incitement to terrorism. The Act criminalizes the raising of funds for terrorist activities, holding of proceeds of terrorism, harboring of terrorists, unauthorized possession or use of any bomb, dynamite or hazardous explosive substance or other lethal weapons.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention) Act, 2005 provides detailed measures preventing the falling of weapons of mass destruction or dual use materials in the hands of terrorists and non-state actors.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 seeks to further streamline monitoring of all foreign contributions received by non-governmental organizations and religious, educational and charitable organizations.

India has concluded more than forty bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of operational counter-terrorism framework, the National Investigation Agency is mandated to investigate and prosecute offences affecting the sovereignty, security and

integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign States and offences under Acts enacted to implement international treaties, and resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations. A National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), linking data bases for constructing actionable intelligence to combat terrorism and internal security threats, has also been set up. The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) has launched the Project FINnet (Financial Intelligence Network) with the objective to adopt best practices and appropriate technology to collect, analyze and disseminate valuable financial information for combating money laundering and related crimes.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the fight against terrorism has to be unrelenting and fought across all fronts. The international community cannot afford selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or in dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism. We must step up our collective efforts with real cooperation among member states to confront the scourge of terrorism squarely and decisively. Terrorism is a Frankenstein monster. Resort to the use of terrorism as an instrument of State Policy is short-sighted. Indeed, those who have taken recourse to it have invariably themselves suffered immensely from it proving the age old dictum that those who play with the sword, shall also perish by it.

Thank you.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS