

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative and Chairman, Counter Terrorism Committee (1373 Committee) at the United Nations Security Council in his national capacity on 'Briefings by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council'

Thank you once again, Mr. President, for giving me the floor. Now, I will deliver a statement in my national capacity. I believe there is a great deal of fusion with the statements made earlier by the three Chairmen of the 1267, 1373 and 1540 Committees.

As regards the work of the Al Qaida and the Taliban sanctions Committee (1267 Committee), the death of Osama bin Laden is a significant milestone in the global war against terrorism. However, it does not signify the end of Al-Qaida nor the end of terrorism. Without the elimination of terrorist safe heavens and sanctuaries, there can be no end to the global war on terror.

We believe that for security and stabilization of Afghanistan, it is important to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al Qaida, Taliban, LeT and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan borders. Attempts to differentiate between the Al-Qaida and the Taliban and other terrorist groups are fraught with difficulty since these groups are operationally and ideologically fused.

We support measures to strengthen the review process of the listings in the Consolidated List of the 1267 Committee through the Office of the Ombudsperson as per UN Security Council Resolution 1904. At the same time, we are concerned that the process of listing and de-listing in the Consolidated List continues to be subjected to political will and pressure – a scenario we can ill-afford in our united fight against terrorism.

India supports Afghan Government's efforts to reintegrate those individuals who abjure violence, give up armed struggle, do not have links with terrorist groups, and are willing

to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution. At the same time, it is important that the 'redlines' on the reintegration process as laid down at the London Conference and later reaffirmed at the Kabul Conference are not diluted. Otherwise, we risk Afghanistan sliding back to becoming a safe haven for terrorists and extremist groups.

Concerning 1540 Committee, Mr. President, India has expressed its unwavering commitment to global efforts for preventing the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. India recognizes that proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery is a major challenge facing the international community.

As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, we are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-state and terrorists could entail. Clandestine proliferation networks have led to insecurity for all and must not be allowed to reappear.

It is important that the international community must join hands in eliminating the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into hands of terrorists and non-state actors. The focus on non-state actors should in no way diminish state accountability in combating terrorism, dismantling its support infrastructure or its linkages with WMD.

In conclusion, Mr. President, it is important to bear in mind that the success of implementation of counter-terrorism measures not only requires the fullest collective effort by the entire membership, but also their fullest participation in processes that affect the collective security of all the nations equally.

Our collective endeavour should be to enhance coherence and synergy among different counter terrorism structures that are dealing with the issue of terrorism within the UN.

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