



**STATEMENT BY MR. KALRAJ MISHRA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 148: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AT SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 18, 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

The agenda item on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" has acquired added importance in recent times owing to the rapidity and the scale with which terrorist attacks are undertaken, cruel methods employed and the soft targets selected. The recent terrorist attacks on soft targets such as schools, public transportation and foreign workers have shaken the world. We thank the Secretary-General for the report under this item. We express our appreciation to Ambassador Rohan Perera for his excellent presentation of the report of the recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee established under General Assembly resolution 51/210.

Mr. Chairman,

India has been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism for almost two decades. India is a Party to all the twelve sectoral Conventions on terrorism and has presented a Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism which is before the Ad Hoc Committee established under General Assembly resolution 51/210.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that terrorism is a common enemy of all peoples, all beliefs, and religions and, above all, of peace and democracy. Terrorism undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy, continued existence of open and democratic societies and constitutes a global threat; therefore, there cannot be any compromise in the global fight against terrorism. Terrorists have been attacking innocent civilians, school-going children, places of worship, parliamentary institutions, government establishments, modes of transport, voters, candidates and officials engaged in peaceful democratic electoral processes, places of business and places of recreation.

As the fight against terrorism began to target safe havens of terrorists, terrorist net-works have spread everywhere across the regions of the world. Terrorist attacks continue to shatter our peace: from Beslan to Taba and from Jakarta to Baghdad. International networks of terror appear to co-operate among themselves more

effectively than the democratic nations they target. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, stated in his recent address to the General Assembly: "terrorism exploits the technologies spawned by globalisation, recruits its foot-soldiers on ideologies of bigotry and hatred, and directly targets democracies". He also identified the hesitation of

world community to commit itself to a truly global offensive to root out terrorism as one of the reasons for the increase in the brutal acts of terror worldwide. The Prime Minister of India called for giving substance and credibility to global coalition against terrorism by avoiding selective approaches on account of political expediency.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to avoid selective approaches, it is essential to ensure that the standard-setting processes involve the whole membership of this Organisation. The 1994 Declaration on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" stands testimony to a non-selective approach to fight against terrorism as it unequivocally condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, whenever and wherever committed. It obliges States to refrain from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in the territories of other States, or from acquiescing in or encouraging activities within their territories directed to the commission of such acts. The Declaration states that political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, and religious considerations or those of any other nature could not justify criminal acts intended or calculated to promote a state of terror in general public. The Declaration therefore sets the tone of general approach against terrorism which has influenced all the legal instruments adopted by the General Assembly in this field, including the sectoral Conventions on terrorism.

Security Council Resolution 1566 adopted earlier this month is integrally linked to the Declaration on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". We believe that the definition contained in this resolution is much closer to that in the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism pending before the Ad Hoc Committee.

Resolution 1566 is important for two more reasons. First, it calls upon member States to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute. Secondly, it makes a general call to the entire membership of the United Nations, on an expedited basis in resolving all outstanding issues with a view to adopt the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International terrorism and the Draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. For these reasons, we fully support Security Council Resolution 1566. We stand ready to work with other delegations in resolving all the pending issues on the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and Draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, expeditiously.

Mr. Chairman,

We are encouraged by the renewed interest among delegations in considering fresh proposals in regard to the pending draft Conventions. We hope that the General Assembly will seize the momentum generated by the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1566. The draft Convention for the Suppression of acts of Nuclear Convention appears to be complete and ready for its adoption. We support the adoption of the Draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism as it stands now. We also call for the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee within the framework of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee to achieve progress on the pending issues. The Working Group indeed provides a viable forum for making rapid progress and achieving a productive outcome.

Thank You Mr. Chairman.

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