

*Agenda Item 164: Measures to eliminate International Terrorism*

*Statement by Mr. Narinder Singh, First Secretary, on November 13, 2000*

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Mr. Chairman,

The present agenda item on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism has acquired special significance in recent years. In the last few years, under the auspices of this agenda item, we have been reviewing and renewing the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on international terrorism. As a result of efforts exerted by Member States within this Working Group, we have been able to finalise some important international conventions, as part of a comprehensive legal framework to fight and curb international terrorism. The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism have now been added to the collection of important international conventions concluded earlier on this subject.

The Working Group is currently considering, among other matters, the conclusion of a comprehensive international convention on international terrorism, on the basis of a draft submitted by my delegation. The first meeting of the Working Group on this convention which took place in September this year was highly productive. We are grateful to the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Rohan Perera, and the two Coordinators of the informal consultations, for guiding the deliberations which resulted in the first reading of the draft convention.

We are equally thankful to every delegation for the encouragement they have given to us and the understanding shown to our proposals. While all the delegations actively participated in the discussions on the draft comprehensive international convention on international terrorism, and several delegations made proposals to redraft some of the draft articles, these discussions revealed that the draft under consideration was generally welcomed as a good basis for concluding the convention. We are conscious of the need to achieve consensus in respect of three important pending issues: on the scope and definition of offences, the relationship between the proposed convention and the conventions already concluded or existing, and the questions raised about the need and content of the annexes attached to the draft convention. We do hope that the revised draft submitted by my delegation on some articles, including Article 2, would help in reaching agreement on some of these issues which the Working Group would take up in its next meeting in February 2001. My delegation would like to reiterate its commitment to exert all efforts to promote consensus on all the remaining issues.

Mr. Chairman,

It is not out of place for my delegation to recall the statement made by the Prime Minister of my country at the Millennium Summit that, "with its links to religious extremism, drug trafficking and the illicit trade in arms, international terrorism constitutes the most dangerous threat to peace, democracy and development." That this concern is shared by several Heads of State or Government, and Foreign Ministers is evident from their

statements made during the Millennium Summit and the general debate of the General Assembly.

International terrorism is an evil that affects all societies and particularly the plural and open democracies. For more than a decade now, India has been a victim of cross border terrorism that has claimed thousands of innocent lives. Given the importance of international cooperation in fighting international terrorism, India has accorded high priority to promote the international conventions on the subject and has become party to all the multilateral conventions. We hope that the two recently adopted conventions on Terrorist Bombings and Financing of Terrorism would soon come into force. India has already ratified the Bombings Convention and is undertaking necessary steps to ratify the Financing Convention.

Given the widespread incidence of terrorism, and its direct impact on the illegal trade in narcotics, small arms and organised crime, there is an urgent need to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Such a convention, in our view, would effectively supplement the existing conventions and deny safe havens to terrorists anywhere in the world. This is a task to which my delegation commits itself and seeks the cooperation of all the Member States of the United Nations.