

Statement by Mr. Mayank Joshi, First Secretary, on Agenda Items 106 and 107: Crime Prevention and International Drug Control at the Third Committee of the 70th UNGA, New York on October 08, 2015

Mr. Chairperson,

Transnational organised crime and drug problem continue to pose serious challenges to sustainable development aimed at achieving a safe, stable, peaceful and sustainable world.

While much has been done since the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the year 2009 to address the world drug problem, new challenges have emerged which call for a concerted and balanced response from the international community.

The need of the hour is not to dilute the Drug Conventions, but to strengthen their implementation in their spirit and address the drug problem on the basis of principle of common and shared responsibility. The Special Session at UNGA next year is a unique and valuable opportunity to take stock of the achievements and challenges in addressing the world drug problem as envisaged by 2019.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of India has attributed the highest priority to this issue in its policy with a three-point initiative to curb the drug menace coming from the Prime Minister himself. This is- increased health services for better rehabilitation of those already addicted, greater awareness in schools and colleges against use of narcotics and stringent enforcement of measures against narcotics smuggling.

Several steps are being undertaken for strengthening of supply and demand reduction activities as well as treatment and after-care facilities. A public health approach in conformity with human rights is being followed with the objective of drugs to be made accessible for genuine medical needs. We are in the process of finalising first national policy for drug demand reduction.

To bring the New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), which now number over 540, and synthetic drugs, under control, government has established a monitoring committee.

As suppliers of opiate raw materials to the world and licit opium cultivators for centuries, we have attempted to align our policies, legislations and regulation to further conform to the principles laid out in the UN Conventions including the 'principle of balance'.

We are also moving towards an “Online regulatory regime”, aimed to better serve the victims of drug abuse and the patients in need of relief. India has been as strong supporter of and contributor to the Paris Pact initiative of UNODC. Our aim is to control precursor chemicals used for synthetic drugs in a manner, which limits their diversion and abuse but not affect their legitimate uses.

In the area of regional cooperation, India has entered into MoUs with each of its neighbours, and is involved in taking several information sharing and capacity building initiatives.

Mr. Chairperson,

India is a party to the UN Conventions on Transnational Organized Crimes and its protocols and the UN Convention on Corruption, which demonstrates our resolve to contribute constructively and actively. India is also a member of Financial Action Task Force. India is also a signatory to various United Nations Conventions which deal with anti-money laundering and countering financing terrorism.

Terrorism has emerged as the most serious scourge of our times and endangers international peace, security and prosperity. State sponsored cross border terrorism is of particular concern to India. Terrorism must be condemned in the strongest terms. The International community must have a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and towards those who aid and abet terrorist acts and provide safe havens to their perpetrators. Any country that allows the perpetrators of dastardly terrorist acts against innocent people, poses a serious threat to all nations.

India continues to strengthen its domestic mechanisms and cooperation with other countries in the critical area of counter terrorism. It is high time that international community demonstrate the necessary political will to conclude the Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism to strengthen the normative framework against the increasingly sophisticated and globalized terrorist challenge.

Increasing threats of cybercrime have the potential of being even more lethal than conventional wars and calls for national capacity building, technical assistance and global cooperation and response. Use of advanced information technology by terrorists has to be met with a global response.

Mr. Chairman,

India is committed to work with the international community at all levels and the UN mechanism towards a world free of illicit drugs, terrorism, crimes against women,

trafficking of persons and drugs, illegal arms transactions, corruption, crimes related to cultural heritage and monuments and transnational organised crime.

We strongly advocate that effective and strengthened crime prevention and criminal justice institutions are the cornerstone for establishing rule of law and are essential for peace, progress and prosperity of nations and successful implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

I thank you.
