

**STATEMENT BY HON'BLE MR. K. KALAVENKTA RAO, MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION ON AGENDA ITEM
156 – MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AT SIXTH
COMMITTEE OF THE 58TH SESSION OF UNGA ON OCTOBER 15, 2003**

Mr. Chairman,

The agenda item on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism has acquired a special significance in recent years owing to the recognition of the need for heightened international cooperation to combat terrorism. We note with satisfaction the report of the Secretary General on this item. We would like to thank Ambassador Rohan Perera of Sri Lanka for his excellent presentation of the report of the seventh session 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. Most recently, the city of Mumbai was subjected to twin terrorist attacks in which 52 persons lost their lives. The people of India have continued to pay a heavy price in our fight against terrorism. Cross-border terrorist attacks represent a challenge to the established values of our society, to our democratic polity and to the law and order apparatus. India is determined to confront these challenges fully and to overcome them completely and decisively.

As the war on terrorism began to target the safe havens of terrorists, we have witnessed the spreading of the terrorist network cutting across the regions of the world with greater vigour and intensity. Terrorist acts continue to shatter our peace: from Mombassa to Moscow; from Mumbai to Bogotá; and from Baghdad to Bali. The terrorists attack innocent civilians, places of worship, parliamentary institutions, government establishments, and modes of transport, voters, candidates and officials engaged in peaceful democratic processes, places of business and places of recreation. On August 19, the headquarters of the UN offices in Baghdad was subjected to a brutal terrorist attack that killed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Sérgio Vieira de Mello and several of his colleagues working for the reconstruction and restoration of sovereignty of Iraq and for assisting the people of Iraq.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that terrorism is a common enemy of all peoples, all beliefs, and religions, and of peace and democracy. Terrorism undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy, endangers the continued existence of open and democratic societies and constitutes a global threat; therefore, there cannot be any compromise in the war against terrorism.

The Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 1994 unequivocally condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, whenever and by whomever 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 towards the commission of such acts. The Declaration also makes clear that no considerations of political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious, or any other nature could justify criminal acts intended or calculated to promote a state of terror in general public. States must ensure that their territories are not used for terrorist installations or training camps or for the preparation or organisation of terrorist attacks intended to be committed against other States or their citizens. Unfortunately, some States continue to flout the Declaration by providing moral, material, financial and logistical sponsorship and support as well as by providing arms to terrorists. We would call upon all States to implement the Declaration sincerely and to operationalise effectively the standards set by the Declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary General's report rightly acknowledges the close link between the implementation of this Declaration and the Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1456 which were unequivocal in condemning all forms of terrorism, and in calling for united action against support, shelter, sponsorship, arming, training and financing for terrorism or terrorists. Although the implementation of these resolutions has contributed to the promotion and enhancement of national legal frameworks to combat terrorism, these efforts need to be supplemented by international standard-setting processes. The development of 12 sectoral Conventions on terrorism has added a substantial body of legislation and standard-setting in this area. Negotiation and successful conclusion of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and elaboration of the draft International Convention for the suppression of acts of Nuclear Terrorism will be significant contributions by the international community in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, within the framework of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee, has been making sincere efforts to settle the outstanding issues on both the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the draft International Convention for the suppression of acts of Nuclear Terrorism. During the General Debate in the 58th session of the General Assembly, a number of States reiterated their support for the successful completion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We believe that the conflicting views on Article 18 of the draft Convention

which is central to the ongoing negotiations and other outstanding questions would be reconciled in a spirit of mutual accommodation.

Mr. Chairman,

The global coalition against terrorism has worked well in many cases, and it has failed to produce desired effects in some other cases. It worked well in Afghanistan, for example. It appears that in some cases, the members of the coalition are themselves part of the problem. In spite of Security Council resolutions calling for united action against support, shelter, sponsorship, arming, training, and financing for terrorism or terrorists, certain countries have not stopped from indulging in sponsoring cross-border terrorism. A clear case in point is the reference in paragraph 22 of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/58/116 of July 2, 2003. Investigations by the Government of Austria into the possible involvement of an Austrian entity in providing hand-grenades used in the attack on the Parliament of India in New Delhi on December 13, 2001, led to the conclusion that the grenades used in this ghastly attack had been produced in Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman,

The developments outlined above indicate that lots more remains to be done to carry forward the war against international terrorism. We shall offer the following suggestions:

- The Counter Terrorism Committee should develop measure to ensure compliance by member-States of their obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1456.
- Credible multilateral instruments have to be developed, identifying States that contravene these Resolutions.
- Multilateral mechanisms need to be created to detect and choke off international financial flows to terrorists and terrorist organisations.
- A better international system of information exchange and intelligence sharing needs to be devised to prevent terrorists from evading capture simply by crossing national borders.
- No State should be allowed to profess partnership with the global coalition against terror, while continuing to aid, abet and sponsor terrorism. To condone such double standards would only mean to multiply terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

India attaches the highest priority to the early conclusion of negotiations and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We call for the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee within the framework of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee which provides the forum for making rapid progress and for achieving a productive outcome.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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