

STATEMENT BY MR. M. KRISHNASSWAMY, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT & MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 108 – ‘CRIME PREVENTION & CRIMINAL JUSTICE & ITEM 109: ‘INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL’ AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 09, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank the Secretary General for all his reports under these agenda items and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for his statement.

Mr. Chairman,

The World Drug Report 2013 points that the manufacture and use of substances that are under control remain largely stable compared with 2009. While the international mechanisms have not been able to reduce the drugs problem, it has ensured that it does not escalate.

The forthcoming high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in March 2014 will provide an important opportunity to examine the challenges that exist in the implementation of the international drug control system¹, as also the challenges posed by the fast evolving nature of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and synthetic drugs.

The scale of problem involving greater use of NPS and synthetic drugs is demonstrated by the fact that such NPS now number over 350, much more than the 234 substances under control.

It is satisfying to note that UNODC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs have begun international consultations to address this new challenge. India has already notified one such NPS – ‘Ketamine’ subjecting it to stringent control measures.

Mr. Chairman,

Another major challenge is use of synthetic drugs, which are chemically synthesized using certain precursor chemicals. Since precursor chemicals have valid industrial, scientific and medicinal uses, it is important that we control them in a manner, which limits their diversion and abuse but not affect their legitimate uses.

India supports the United Nations mechanisms for control of precursor chemicals such as the ‘PEN-online’ system developed by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for notifying countries in advance before precursor chemicals are exported.

¹ The current International Drug Control system is rooted in the three United Nations Conventions namely the UN Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the UN Convention against illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

In March this year, India has notified a new regulation for control of large number of precursor chemicals including ephedrine and pseudoephedrine used for manufacture of synthetic drugs like Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) – a controlled substance.

India strongly supports the Paris Pact initiative of UNODC and is contributing US \$ 200,000 to the Phase 4 of this Initiative.

Drug trafficking is one of the most severe challenges that confront us today. That money from drug trafficking finances other forms of criminal activity, including terrorism and transnational organized crime, is well documented.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains a grave threat to security and stability everywhere and extracts a heavy toll of innocent lives around the world. It endangers the very foundations of all free democratic societies.

From Africa to Asia, we have seen several manifestations of this menace in the last few days alone. State-sponsored cross-border terrorism is of particular concern to India.

We need to renew our commitment, especially here at the UN, for concerted, cohesive and continuing global action that ensures zero-tolerance towards terrorism. We need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succor and even legitimacy.

There can be no tolerance for States sheltering, arming, training or financing terrorists. Nor can they absolve themselves of the responsibility to prevent their territories from being used to launch acts of terrorism.

Globalization and significant advances in information and communication technology provide a platform for terrorists to operate across continents on a real time basis. This has to be met with a global response.

It is high time that the international community demonstrates 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.

Mr. Chairman,

Transnational organized crimes continue to adversely impact many parts of the world threatening the rule of law and hindering economic development.

India is a State Party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, and to the UN Convention against Corruption.

India has enacted strong domestic legislation and entered into bilateral agreements to prevent money laundering, and counter terrorism and organized crime. India is also a member of the Financial Action Task Force.

India is deeply concerned at the growing scale worldwide of trafficking of persons. The 2010 UN Global Plan of Action (GPA) against Trafficking in Persons provides a holistic and comprehensive framework to intensify our efforts to tackle this menace.

We are also concerned about the new emerging areas such as cyber-crime, economic fraud, education related fraud and identity thefts, and their links with other criminal and terrorist activities.

Mr. Chairman,

India is of the view that ever-evolving cybercrime poses a new global challenge which calls for more effective global responses. National capacity-building and international cooperation need to be further strengthened.

The comprehensive study on cybercrime prepared by the UNODC under auspices of the expert group examining the options to strengthen existing and to propose new national and international legal or other responses to cybercrime is a useful input in our deliberations.

While India welcomes the progress made in promoting greater international cooperation and coordination among law enforcement and criminal justice institutions in combating transnational crimes in recent years, more needs to be done.

We also need to place greater emphasis on capacity building and technical assistance, especially in dealing with new and emerging forms of crime. We strongly advocate the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law and support the UN efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would reiterate our strong support and commitment to working with the international community through various regional, international and UN mechanisms towards a world free of illicit drugs, money laundering, trafficking in persons, illegal arms transaction, transnational organized crime and terrorism.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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