

Statement by
Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin
Permanent Representative

Open Debate
on
Threats to International Peace and Security: Linkages
between International Terrorism and Organised Crime

United Nations Security Council

9 July 2019

Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing this important debate. We appreciate the commitment of the delegation of Peru to the cause of Counter Terrorism. We are grateful to you for consistently highlighting the linkages of Terrorism and Organized Crime in your work in the Security Council, especially as the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee. I also thank the briefers for their informative and insightful inputs.

Mr. President,

2. While it is axiomatic to portray the linkages between Terrorism and Organized Crime as symbiotic, let us not forget that Terrorism itself is a crime in most national jurisdictions. This situation exists, at least since this Council adopted resolution 1373 (2001), by which, for the first time, it required all Member States to domestically criminalize terrorism and the financing thereof.

3. Also, Terrorism and Organised Crime are both manifestly malicious organisms drawing sustenance from the same deadly swamp. At times, they co-exist; at other times, they cooperate; and in instances, they converge.

4. As the world becomes more interconnected, these menacing networks are becoming increasingly intertwined.

Mr. President,

5. The nature of the relationships between terrorist and criminal groups may vary, according to a variety of factors. However, both rely on strategic recourse to unsanctioned and illegitimate use of violence to undermine governance and development. Both lead to destabilising established State structures, thereby undermining and threatening international peace and security.

6. Terrorist organizations are increasingly involved in lucrative criminal activities, such as trading in natural resources and human trafficking, to raise funds. Similarly, criminal groups are joining hands with terrorists, and are providing services such as counterfeiting, illicit financing, arms dealing, drug trafficking and smuggling terrorists across borders.

Mr. President,

7. The activities of ISIL, Al Shabab and Boko Haram, such as extortion, human trafficking, resource extraction, trade in cultural artefacts, illicit taxation in areas they control, manifest in myriad ways the process of blurring of lines at the intersections between crime and terror.

8. In our own region, we have seen the mutation of Dawood Ibrahim's criminal syndicate into a terrorist network known as the D-Company. The D-Company's illegitimate economic activities may be little known outside our region, but for us, such activities as gold smuggling, counterfeit currency, as well as arms and drug trafficking from a safe haven that declines to acknowledge even his existence, are a real and present danger.

Mr. President,

9. The success of collective action to denude ISIL is a pointer that the Council's focussed attention can and does yield results. A similar degree of interest in addressing the threats posed by proscribed individuals, such as Dawood Ibrahim and his D-Company, as well as proscribed entities, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Toiba, listed as affiliates of Al-Qaeda, under the 1267 sanctions regime, will serve all of us well.

Mr. President,

10. Revenues generated by illicit activities of terrorist and criminal groups are moved across borders and exchanged through open networks. This flow of resources, meant to produce violence and terror, needs to be stopped by States working together. Collective inter-state efforts are required, including at regional and sub-regional levels. We also need to sensitise the private and public enterprises involved in facilitating legitimate transboundary financial flows and we should harness their support, so that they do not fall prey to malevolent objectives, in the vein of Osama bin Laden's string of retail honey shops.

11. Normative efforts at the UN need to be coordinated through collaboration with other fora like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). We believe that the FATF is playing a significant role in setting global standards for preventing and combating money laundering and terrorist financing. The UN needs to increase cooperation with such bodies.

Mr. President,

12. With the emergence of new technologies and uncharted frontiers, our challenges in identifying new terrorist trends, mapping links between terrorists and criminal groups, and sharing information more effectively, are growing.

13. The Security Council has, over the years, identified various aspects of the issue of addressing terrorist financing. We hope that the resolution under discussion

in the Council, during your Presidency, on the linkages between Terrorism and Organized Crime will advance this cause further.

14. Finally, our collective commitment to implement what we agree upon in this body will go a long way in acting as a catalyst in pursuit of our common good.

I thank you Mr. President.