

74th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Sixth Committee

Agenda Item: 109

“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”

Statement by

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First Secretary/Legal adviser

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I assure you of the full cooperation and support of the Indian delegation during the proceedings of this Committee.

2. We thank the Secretary-General for his report A/74/151 on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”. The report includes useful information on measures taken at the national and international levels based on the inputs provided by the Governments and International Organizations for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

3. Terrorism is the one of biggest scourges of our times. It has emerged not only as a major destabilizing force but one that threatens the existence of the States and undermines the very foundations of the democratic political and social order.

4. Two weeks ago, the Prime Minister of India in his statement at the General debate, said and I quote, “lack of unanimity amongst us on the

issue of terrorism, dents those very principles, that are the basis for the creation of the U.N. And that is why, for the sake of humanity, I firmly believe, that it is absolutely imperative, that the world unites against terrorism, and that the world stands as one against terrorism” end quote.

5. India condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and no cause whatsoever or grievance can justify terrorism, including State-sponsored cross-border terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Terrorism is a challenge for mankind, not just any one country or region. Those who believe in humanity should join together to tackle terrorism. The international community needs to adopt and implement a policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

7. No state is immune to the threat of terrorism as continuing terrorist attacks across the world, many of them with links beyond the borders of the affected state, continue to demonstrate. Terrorism knows no boundaries and much of it is the result of transnational network of terrorists and their organisations and the multiple purposes they represent. The menace of international terrorism with its wide roots and numerous global connections has been recognized as grave international concern by every major international gathering of recent years.

8. It is today a self-evident truth that democratic, secular and multicultural societies are the prime targets of terrorism. These have become the most vulnerable to its attacks. Terrorists exploit the civil liberties, religious tolerance and cultural diversity in our countries. They seek to destroy the democratic fabric by fomenting sectarian divisions and cultural tensions and ultimately deprive us of that very freedom which they have exploited.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Terrorism is a serious challenge to the entire international community. The growing inter linkages between terrorist groups, cross-border operations including terror financing networks, propagating ideologies of

hatred through exploitation of modern technologies and funding arms and weapons have certainly left no country aloof from the impact of terrorism.

10. The only effective way to tackle an international threat like terrorism is by way of genuine collaboration among the States. We strongly believe that terrorism can be countered by combined international efforts and that the UN is best suited for developing this transnational effort. However, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) being discussed by the UN General Assembly over the last decade has resulted in little impact on the ground. The Sanctions Committees established by the UN Security Council have become selective tools due to opaque working methods and politicized decision making.

Mr. Chairman,

11. The General Assembly, with the voice and the moral authority of the entire international community, must guide the efforts to develop a framework of international law within which action can be taken against terrorism.

12. In this context, the work done by the Ad-Hoc Committee established by the UN General Assembly for formulating international instruments against terrorism assumes special importance. Since its establishment 20 years ago in 1996, this Ad Hoc Committee has negotiated texts resulting in the adoption of three sectoral treaties: 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings; the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism; and the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

13. We support concerted international cooperation and efforts by way of extradition, prosecution, information exchange, and capacity building. The major UN instruments relating to specific terrorist activities remain fundamental tools in the fight against terrorism and India is a Party to all of these instruments.

14. India is of the firm belief that a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) will provide a strong legal basis for the fight against terrorism and will be in the interest of all Member States to have a multilateral and collective dimension of counter terrorism effort.

15. The inability to agree on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism remains one of the great gaps in the international legislative framework that would strengthen efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and their support networks. We need to move forward in adopting the draft text of CCIT which is a balanced one and has emerged after long discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

16. India stands committed in all efforts to counter terrorism by exchanging information, building capacities for effective border controls, preventing misuse of modern technologies, monitoring illicit financial flows and cooperating in investigation and judicial procedures.

17. The flow of resources meant to produce terror are required to be stopped by States for which collective inter-State efforts are required at regional and sub-regional levels. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has a significant role in setting global standards for preventing and combating terrorist financing and UN needs to increase cooperation with such bodies. We strongly condemn direct or indirect financial assistance given to terrorist groups or individual members thereof by States or its machineries, to pursue their activities, including in defending the criminal cases involving terrorist acts against them.

18. The fight against terrorism has to be unrelenting and fought across all fronts. The international community cannot afford selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or in dismantling the terrorist infrastructure. We must step up our collective efforts with real-time cooperation among Member States to confront the scourge of terrorism.

19. In conclusion, India reiterates its strong support to the GA Resolution 73/125 of 20 December 2018 which, in para 24, recommends the Sixth Committee at the 74th Session to establish the "Working Group with a view to finalising the process on the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism".

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
