



**STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY
TERRORISTS ACTS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 19, 2004**

Mr. President,

We thank you for providing this opportunity to the general membership to contribute its views on the threats posed by terrorist acts to international peace and security.

Mr. President,

There is today almost unanimous agreement among the membership of the United Nations that the threat represented by terrorism is global, afflicting countries worldwide irrespective of region, religion, colour or creed. The instances of terrorist attacks in Beslan or Bali, Moscow or Madrid, New York or New Delhi, Casablanca, Istanbul, Taba or Riyadh are fresh in our minds. They represent flashpoints in a larger fight against terror being waged in different parts of the world.

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon to India. Over 60,000 Indians have fallen victim to the ravages of terrorism and those who perpetuate, promote, sponsor or facilitate it. Nor is it new to the United Nations. As early as in October 1970, the General Assembly had affirmed in a Declaration that every State had the duty to refrain from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in another State.

Mr. President,

We congratulate the Security Council for its unanimous adoption of Resolution 1566 on 8 October, 2004. We would have been happy to share our views on this critical resolution before its adoption but did not have the opportunity to do so. In our view, Resolution 1566 represents a logical extension of the existing multilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism. It takes forward the ideas first enunciated in landmark Resolutions 1267 and 1373 of the Security Council. In doing so, it also draws attention to the need to move forward in the General Assembly's consideration of this important issue.

Soon after the adoption of Resolution 1373, my delegation had, in a statement to the Security Council under this agenda item, recommended that the Council extend its actions to groups known to perpetuate terrorism; be pro-active in seeking the views of Member States, particularly those affected by terrorist acts; not leave unchallenged or unaddressed claims of moral, political and diplomatic support for terrorism; and institute more effective measures to deny safe haven to terrorists and seek their extradition.

Resolution 1566 seeks to implement the very measures that India had advocated almost three years ago. For this reason, among others, it has our support.

Mr. President,

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security. It knows no border or boundary, it observes no code of conduct or constraints of religious ideology, nor is it restrained by humanity or the bounds civility. Its objective is to, *inter alia*, "provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act". It dictates its terms through death and destruction, fear and confusion. It is indiscriminate in its wrath. It cannot be justified under any circumstances, be they "political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious, or other similar nature".

The international community has to continue to work together to address this common global threat. The work of the 1267 and 1373 Committees has to be taken further. Resolution 1566 represents a timely and laudable initiative designed to move the international community forward in its common consideration of the issue. We hope that the Working Group constituted by the Council pursuant to this Resolution can come to an early conclusion on the need for greater international cooperation on practical measures to be imposed on terrorists and their supporters, including through prosecution or extradition and the establishment of a consolidated list of individuals, groups or entities involved in or associated with terrorist acts.

Mr. President,

Resolution 1566 calls upon Member States to cooperate fully in expeditiously adopting the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) and the draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, pending in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. We are confident that this would renew the impetus among Member States to activate the General Assembly on this important issue and lead to the speedy adoption of both the texts.

The unanimous Council vote in favour of Resolution 1566 was a positive sign of the commitment of the international community to remain steadfast in this global fight against terror. It is sometimes forgotten that Mahatma Gandhi who led the greatest non-violent mass movement preferred to call it off and postpone independence in the 1930s rather than compromise with an act of terrorist violence in Chauri Chaura. The integration of all faiths that have contributed to the rich fabric of Indian civilization is shown by the fact that there was not a single terrorist from India among the "foreign

fighters" abroad. We also recall the unimpeachable secular credentials of the great popular movements in the Islamic world after the Second World War. Against this backdrop, the extreme reactionary vision of terrorists can only strengthen reaction while their extreme anti-humanism and devotion to death and destruction dooms them to certain failure. I would conclude by again mentioning that the new Government of India is committed to the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and, therefore, to fighting terrorism without, in Benjamin Franklin's great phrase, "diminishing the legal personality of the citizen".

Thank you, Mr. President.

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