



**STATEMENT BY MR. V.K. NAMBIAR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON THREATS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 4, 2004**

**Mr. President,**

We felicitate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for March. We also congratulate the Ambassadors of Chile and China for their adroit and capable stewardship of the Council during the months of January and February, respectively.

**Mr. President,**

We thank you for providing us with this opportunity for conveying our views on recent developments in the collective fight of the international community against terrorism. This debate assumes particular relevance in the context of ongoing measures to introduce significant and far-reaching changes in the structure and functioning of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee. We congratulate Ambassador Arrias of Spain for his exemplary Chairmanship of the Committee.

**Mr. President,**

India's exposure to the ravages of terrorism for over two decades and the loss of thousands of lives has only strengthened our resolve to fight this global menace. In the period following the attacks of 11 September 2001, the international community has been galvanised to act individually and collectively against the threat of international terrorism.

These measures have had considerable impact in restricting, curtailing and limiting the space within which terrorist groups can operate. The most important impact has been the gaining perception that terrorism cannot be condoned or supported as legitimate activity. Justifications, on diplomatic, political, religious or any other grounds, for support to terrorism remain untenable.

The UN in general, and the Security Council in particular, has taken firm strides in the post 9/11 period to create and carry forward international momentum on counter-terrorism activities through multilateral means. The Counter-Terrorism Committee, under the capable leadership of earlier UK and Spain now, has been the focal point of such international efforts. As a result, a large number of States have undertaken measures to create the legislative and administrative frameworks required to counter terrorism. Many are moving towards improving their operational capabilities in tackling terrorists and their networks in their respective countries and through global cooperation.

In our own region, the seven Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), at its 12<sup>th</sup> Summit in Islamabad in January 2004, signed the Additional Protocol to the SAARC Regional Convention on Combating Terrorism. The Additional Protocol would update the Convention in order to meet the obligations devolving in terms of Resolution 1373. The SAARC Islamabad Declaration, noting that the people of South Asia continue to face a serious threat from terrorism, condemned terrorist violence in all its forms and manifestations. It recognised that terrorism violated the fundamental values of the United Nations and the SAARC Charter and constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

**Mr. President,**

In our statement at the Security Council on 18 January 2002, soon after the adoption of Resolution 1373, India had made the following recommendations to the Counter-Terrorism Committee:

- That its focus should extend to groups that are known to perpetrate terrorism;
- It should be pro-active in seeking views, in particular, from States affected by terrorist acts;
- It should not be leave unchallenged or unaddressed claims of moral, political and diplomatic support for terrorism, which were clearly in contravention of Resolution 1373; and
- It should institute more effective measures to deny safe haven to terrorists and to seek their extradition.

Undoubtedly, a lot has been achieved over the past two years. However, continuing acts of terror in different parts of the world by the Al-Qaeda/Taliban, their sympathisers, or groups with similar propensity to achieve their questionable objectives, illustrate the continued vulnerability of the international community in this regard. The international community has to persevere in its efforts to interdict and neutralise terrorist organisations and their networks through dynamic measures designed for maximum global reach. The CTC could increase its effectiveness by going beyond building legislative capacity to improving the operational and administrative capabilities and co-operation among States in their counter-terrorism efforts.

We have seen the report of the CTC Chairman on the "Proposal for the Revitalisation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee", recently adopted by the Committee. India is fully committed, in principle, to any proposal that enables the CTC to improve its effectiveness and strengthen the fight against terrorism. The CTC's effective monitoring of Member States' compliance with the provisions of Resolution 1373 is an objective that India has supported since the adoption of the resolution.

At the same time, new systems do require a certain amount of introspection and clear articulation before they are instituted. Those that may have long-term implications on the functioning of the Council and the UN, and possibly having a bearing on Member States themselves, cannot be considered the sole preserve of the Council. Although some of the questions relating to the proposal on the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) may well have been addressed and possibly answered in the course of the debate today, the following questions come to mind:

- What kind of a precedent are we creating by the establishment of an enhanced mechanism such as the CTED within the Security Council?
- Is there sufficient rationale for a separate structure within the UN Secretariat?
- How effective would a large body of 20 experts be in terms of cost and performance?
- How does the Council propose to ensure the accountability of the CTED, its institutionalised accessibility to and appropriate consultation with Member States on their concerns and priorities?
- Have the financial implications of the establishment of the CTED over a period of three years and the need for its consistency with regular budgetary, administrative and financial practices been fully considered?

Other issues that need to be considered are:

- Recruitment of experts in terms of geographical representation, non-controversial credentials, objective selection, diversity of background, expertise and experience; and
- Avoidance of duplication and overlap in the functioning of different agencies/bodies elsewhere within the UN system, engaged in capacity- building on counter-terrorism, with the CTED.

**Mr. President,**

The overall message India, like most other member States would like to convey is of unstinting support for counter-terrorism efforts arising from the Security Council. Notwithstanding the above questions, the efforts of the CTC to institute effective measures within a transparent and calibrated system will receive our firm support and cooperation.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**

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