



STATEMENT BY MR A.GOPINATHAN, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASEMBLY RESOLUTION 51/120 OF 17 DECEMBER 1996 ON MARCH 28,2005

Mr. Chairman,

We are very happy to see you once again presiding over our deliberations. We wish you every success and assure you, other members of the Bureau and the co-ordinators of our fullest co-operation.

Mr. Chairman,

India attaches the highest importance to the work of the Ad hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 1996, which has been dealing with the elaboration of a draft international Convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, formulation of a joint organised response of the international community to terrorism and elaboration of a draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism.

We believe that terrorism is a common enemy of all peoples, all beliefs, and religions, and of peace and democracy. Terrorism undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy, endangers the continued existence of open and democratic societies and constitutes a global threat; therefore, there cannot be any compromise in the war against terrorism, nor can there be any justification on any grounds for acts of terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

In spite of putting in place various rigorous measures by the international community against terrorism, we have been unable to stop the spread of terrorist networks which have pervaded almost all regions of the world. We are cognisant of the weaknesses of the existing global legal frame work on terrorism. The Secretary-General had referred to the most important among these weaknesses when he recently

mentioned the lack of a comprehensive convention on terrorism, based on a clear and agreed definition. Apart from the report of the Secretary-General of March 21, his recent statement at the Madrid conference on international terrorism and his address at the Arab League summit in Algiers are extremely important for our Committee's work.

We are all aware that an agreed definition on terrorism would be possible only as an out come of a process where the general membership of the UN is fully involved in its formulation. The General Assembly which had successfully evolved the legal framework of twelve international Conventions on terrorism, should not delay any further in completing the two draft Conventions pending before this Committee. Any further delay on their completion would only convey a wrong signal to the international community. We welcome the recommendations made in this regard in the Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. We further welcome the categorical recommendation in the Secretary General's March 21st Report that the General Assembly should rapidly complete the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism before the 60th Session. To borrow a phrase from the March 21 report of the Secretary-General, though made in another context, we feel strongly that the perceived difficulties or differences in arriving at a definition of terrorism that would command consensus should not be used as an excuse for delay or for postponing a decision on the Comprehensive Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the draft Convention for the Suppression of acts of Nuclear Convention, we would like to reiterate our stand that the draft appears to be complete and ready for its adoption. We support the adoption of the Draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism as it stands now, without any further amendments.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope that the 2005 Summit will provide the political impetus necessary to adopt the two Conventions being considered by this Committee. The conducive atmosphere created by the presentation of the report of the High-Level Panel and the resounding endorsement given by the Secretary-General in his report of March 21 should enable this Committee to complete its work before the 2005 Summit, including resolution of all outstanding issues. We urge all delegations to work together in a spirit of cooperation and accommodation towards achieving this objective.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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