



**STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON
AGENDA ITEM: 148 MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 51/210 OF 17 DECEMBER 1996 IN
THE 59TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 13, 2005**

Mr President,

India attaches great importance to today's adoption of the Convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. We congratulate the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on terrorism, Mr. Rohan Perera, for successfully guiding the work of the Committee in concluding the Nuclear Terrorism Convention.

We express our deep appreciation to the Russian Federation for tabling the draft Convention. The enthusiasm and energy they imparted to the negotiations over the last year led us to the finalisation and conclusion of the Convention which we have adopted today. We also thank the delegation of Mexico for tabling a proposal which enabled Member States to reach agreement over the Convention within the Ad Hoc Committee on terrorism.

We attach high priority to the formulation of international legal standards to combat terrorism. The General Assembly by adopting the Convention today has demonstrated its resolve to deny terrorists access to nuclear materials and enhance international co-operation between states in devising and adopting effective practical measures for prevention of acts of nuclear terrorism, and for the prosecution and punishment of their perpetrators. We are happy to note that this international legal instrument on terrorism, which is now the thirteenth sectoral Convention, also happens to be the first international legal instrument adopted by the General Assembly since 9/11. This is the optimal approach to international law-making.

Mr. President,

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and human rights. 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 of civility. It undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy and endangers the continued existence of open and democratic societies. The international community will

have to remain united in persevering with its collective campaign to root out terrorism. Terrorists try to usurp the role played by secular and democratic nationalist forces and their reactionary vision can only strengthen reaction while their brutal anti-humanism dooms them to certain failure.

Mr President,

The importance of the recent statements by the Secretary-General in Madrid and Algiers, where he referred to the weakness of the international legal framework on terrorism and called upon Member States to expeditiously conclude both the Convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and the Comprehensive convention on international terrorism, cannot be overemphasized. The High-level Panel's Report and the Report of the Secretary General presented on March 21, 2005 have also highlighted the importance and need for early conclusion of both the Convention on Nuclear Terrorism and the Comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

We have partially accomplished the task today by adopting the Nuclear Terrorism Convention which we trust will enter into force early. The Secretary General has called upon Member States to conclude negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism by the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. We hope that Member States would demonstrate the same resolve and flexibility in concluding the Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism.

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