



STATEMENT BY MR. A. GOPINATHAN, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, AT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SIXTH
COMMITTEE ON DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE CONVENTION ON
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ON JULY 25, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

We thank you for organising these informal consultations in response to the sense of urgency shown in the recommendations contained in the reports of the High level panel and of the Secretary-General for the early adoption of the comprehensive Convention on international Terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

The recent horrific attacks in London, Sharm-el-Sheikh and elsewhere in the world have shown the emergence of terrorism with a renewed vigour. We express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and the Governments and the people of these countries. The seriousness and consistency of the threat posed by terrorism to civilised society anywhere, irrespective of political affiliation or ideology, have been brought home once again. Most important, for our purposes, it has reinforced the urgent need for a global consensus on dealing with it.

While the Security Council has been justifiably proactive on the counter-terrorism agenda, we believe it is equally important for the general membership to engage on this critical issue. The Secretary-General has called for a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy to be adopted by Heads of State and Government at the High-Level Plenary meeting in September. The international community must endorse his call. In order to close the existing major gap, my delegation strongly supports the conclusion of a comprehensive Convention on international terrorism during the early part of the Sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

We have welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, initiated by the Russian Federation, and look forward to its early entry into force. We call on all Member States to reiterate the international community's clear condemnation of terrorist acts and their resolve to deal with the scourge with determination. At the recent informal consultations on the draft outcome document convened by the president of the General Assembly, a vast majority of Member States had supported the adoption of the comprehensive Convention at the earliest. We urge all member States to capitalise on the new momentum at the UN and conclude swiftly the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. This will complement the broad legal framework set out in Security Council resolutions and the 13 UN counter-terrorism Conventions.

Mr. Chairman,

We are encouraged by the atmosphere of renewed interest in finalising the comprehensive Convention on international Terrorism. The ad hoc Committee has to seize the new momentum created by the recent reports of the High level Panel and the Secretary-General. Time has come to demonstrate once again the flexibility as had been shown in April which had led to the adoption of the Convention for the Suppression of acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We appeal to every delegation to show utmost flexibility, spirit of accommodation and compromise in finalising the draft Convention in this meeting, paving the way for its adoption during the early part of the Sixtieth session. On our part, we stand ready to extend to you all co-operation and to work with other delegations in completing our task expeditiously.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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