



STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON THREATS TO
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS AT THE
SECURITY COUNCIL ON OCT OBER 26, 2005

Mr. President

As this is the first statement I am making in the Security Council this month. I wish to take the opportunity to warmly felicitate you on your dedicated and talented stewardship of the Council. I would also like to sincerely congratulate you and members of your team for your effective guidance of the work of the council.

Let me also thank the Chairman of the three Security Council Committees established pursuant to Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540, for their comprehensive briefings on the progress made in their respective areas. We wish to also acknowledge the work carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee in the pursuance of their respective mandates.

Mr. President,

Earlier this month, terrorists struck for a second time in Bali, Indonesia, extracting a toll amongst innocent civilians. The victims were unconnected with any ideology, policy or programme directed against terrorists but nonetheless fell to these very forces. While our thoughts go out to them and their families, such incidents also reinforce the absolute importance of countries working together to root out the scourge of terrorism. India is determined to continue to effectively contribute to such an effort.

Mr. President,

Terrorism has become a global phenomenon to which no country or society can remain totally immune or indifferent. The Prime Minister of India recently stated that 'The end of the Cold War, increasing global inter-dependence and the trans-border nature of many threats have made strategic concepts developed in a bi-polar world somewhat irrelevant. While the international community has made some progress in evolving a

rule-based order for managing the economic and commercial dimensions of globalization, the absence of an effective, rule-based order is acutely felt in addressing contemporary security threats, such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction'.

The United Nations is uniquely placed to provide the multilateral platform necessary for real global cooperation and coordination in our common fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is also for this reason that the actions of the Security Council alone, no matter how effective, cannot provide a sufficient response to the global security threats we face today.

Mr. President,

The 2005 World Summit Outcome contained a clear and unqualified condemnation of terrorism by all governments. It, inter alia, reiterated to call to states to 'refrain from organizing, financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities and to take appropriate measures to ensure that their territories are not used for such activities'. It also stressed the need to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

India initiated the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the General Assembly during its 51st session. We believe this draft supplements the thirteen sectoral conventions on terrorism and provide a comprehensive legal framework upon which States can base their cooperation for extradition and mutual judicial assistance in connection with terrorist crimes. However, it has been almost a decade in the making. Every effort has been made to narrow the existing differences and to address the issue of the legal regime under the draft Convention and international humanitarian law. In situations where international humanitarian law applies, it is important that the legal balance must not be altered. In the current climate of increasing acts of terrorism, we believe all States should work expeditiously towards the adoption of the draft convention early in the sixtieth session, as proposed by the President of the General Assembly. We remain convinced that such a convention would also greatly facilitate the work of the Security Council in the area of counter-terrorism.

Mr. President,

The people of India have faced the scourge of cross-border terrorism for well over two decades. We have suffered its consequences but have also, over time, accumulated the expertise and experience to deal with this menace through prevention, interdiction and deterrence. Our experience has addressed the unique forms and techniques utilized by terrorists in our region to attain their objectives. Unfortunately, we have also seen increasing use of such methods in other parts of the world. These include use of informal channels of banking and the movement of people and arms, facilitated by the unholy nexus of drug and human traffickers and terrorists.

Relevant Indian departments and specialized agencies have developed considerable expertise in tackling such problems as terrorist financing, alternative currency transfer systems, money laundering, and illegal arms trafficking. They have also acquired a sound knowledge of customs law, extradition law, immigration law, financial law, legislative drafting, border patrol, police and law enforcement. We would, in principle, be happy to share this expertise with countries that require to build capacity in such areas. We were, therefore, pleasantly surprised to find ourselves being offered assistance by the Counter-Terrorism Committee [CTC] in the very areas in which our experience has been amply demonstrated. Such an offer through no doubt kindly meant is like carrying coals to Newcastle. In our view, it would be of far greater benefit to Member States if the experts at the disposal of the CTC employ themselves more profitably by imparting real and practical expertise to States that request and really require such assistance.

We note that the Third Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526, released by the Council last month, warned that with Al-Qaeda's continuing evolution, the threat of significant attack remained real. It has also acknowledged that the different sanctions against the Al-Qaeda and Taliban have not achieved their full potential. It is clear that the Council would need to continually adapt its existing measures to match the ability of these organizations and their associates to find a way around the efforts of the international community to tackle them. Containment measures have to keep abreast of methods that mutate.

We would also like a caution against any casual moves towards reconciliation with elements of the Taliban. We continue to maintain that individuals on the Taliban Consolidated List must remain there, with their assets frozen and their inability to rejoin Afghan society remaining in position. They must not be de-listed without giving up their former affiliations and being made accountable through due process for past actions against their countrymen.

The 1540 Committee must continue its work to ensure that non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Such an effort must remain equally vigilant against proliferation by both States and non-States actors. At the same time it should act against both the recipients and sources of proliferation. Nor can non-proliferation be selective. Turning a blind eye to supposed allies and targeting supposed adversaries can only undermine 1540. I wish to thank the distinguished Permanent Representative of France for his reference to India's report to the 1540 Committee.

The working group established under resolution 1566 has the unique opportunity to shape the future direction of the United Nations effort against terrorism. We wish to commend the Philippines for chairing this working group and for its contribution to the work of the Council. My delegation has made certain suggestions to the Chair of the working group on the implementation of resolution 1566. We are hopeful that the

working group will expeditiously move forward the cooperation on counter-terrorism identified in that resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President

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