



STATEMENT BY DR. NEERU CHADHA, COUNSELLOR, ON
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: UNITING AGAINST
TERRORISM: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A GLOBAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY AT THE
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON MAY 11, 2006

Mr. Chairman we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Co-Chair for the consultations of the General Assembly on global counter terrorism strategy.

We also thank the Secretary General for his Report outlining the recommendations that would guide a global strategy on terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, terrorism remains one of the major threats to international peace and security. It undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy, enjoyment of human rights and continued existence of open and democratic societies. Therefore, we appreciate the efforts towards formulating a global strategy that would truly reflect the collective will of the international community to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We are convinced that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, is a criminal and unjustifiable act and therefore welcome the reiteration in the report that the UN must make absolutely clear that "no cause, no matter how just, can excuse terrorism".

We support the call for "moving ahead with the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international

terrorism, which will send a strong signal of international unity and strengthen the moral authority of the United Nations”.

The Report of the Secretary General contains a number of significant elements that would contribute to countering terrorism. In this regard we especially note the elements that focus on the human rights of victims of terrorism and the need to provide them protection and assistance, the relationship of terrorism to other threats, such as organized crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, extremism and intolerance.

In this age of information technology, the Report draws much needed attention to the increased use of the internet by terrorist groups to recruit and build support for their activities. The call for greater coordinated actions to respond to this challenge, as well as for requirement for States to effectively criminalize recruitment for terrorism and incitement to terrorist acts, is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman, while it may be true that terrorist acts do not occur in a political or social vacuum, it is equally true that underlying factors that may lead to support for and recruitment to terrorism differ considerably from case to case. There may be no single factor that generates the phenomenon and its causes can be multiple and often interrelated,

While we recognize the importance of respect for human rights, it is also important not to forget respect for human rights of victims and the obligation of States to protect the security of their citizens. Here we would also mention that categorization of victims of terrorism should be avoided. We encourage the establishment of a system providing for assistance to victims of terrorist acts and their families.

The Report has also rightly highlighted the positive role which mass media and civil society can play in drawing attention of the public to consequences of terrorism. Self restraint in reporting can help dry up the propaganda machinery on which some such terrorist entities survive.

We believe that capacity-building is one of the essential elements in combating terrorism. The Report in its entirety recommends an expanded role for the existing counter-terrorist legal and institutional framework within the U.N, to enhance capabilities of Member States to combat terrorism. We believe that in this regard there should be an increased focus on regional intergovernmental organizations. Those organisations may also be integrated in the task of combating terrorism as such fora have proved to be useful for sharing not only best practices among States but also to promote international cooperation.

The Secretary General has provided a blueprint and to convert these proposals into operative, implementable outcomes remains the task of Member States. We would favour a focused and result oriented strategy that to the extent possible steers clear from controversial elements. The emphasis should be more on international cooperation and developing state capacity. The fight against terrorism would involve multiple actors and instruments at national, regional and international level. The effective coordination between all the actors on many cross-cutting issues would be the key to the success of the strategy.

We really hope that Member States shall seize the momentum generated by this Report and adopt a universally acceptable strategy which will prove to be a milestone in the global response to combat terrorism.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman

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