



**STATEMENT BY MR. AJAI MALHOTRA, AMBASSADOR/DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE ADOPTION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY
ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2006.**

Mr. President, at the outset I would like to place on record our sincere appreciation to the two Co-Chairs, the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Singapore and Spain, who have taken into account the concerns of various delegations and provided several successive drafts since May this year, in order to produce a final draft text that we can all live with.

2. Mr. President, we understand the compulsions that have resulted in the present text. Nevertheless, my delegation would have liked to see the United Nations convey a far stronger message directed at countering terrorism. We would have liked the Strategy to send a strong and clear signal to terrorists that their actions will not be tolerated irrespective of the motivations underlying them. Today itself terrorists have killed over 35 persons in Malegaon, India. This senseless slaughter of innocents reinforces the point that we cannot and must not yield any space to terrorism, but must resolutely confront it everywhere and at all levels.

3. Mr. President, we must also firmly reject the notion that there is any cause that can justify terrorism. No consideration can ever justify the targeted killing of innocent men, women or children. In this regard we would have liked to see the retention of Operative Para 11 of the July 31 draft text, which reiterated what was affirmed in the 1994 Declaration and various UNGA resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism. That operative paragraph unequivocally asserted that criminal acts of terrorism intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are, in any circumstances, unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical,

ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them. This widely accepted and well known principle should have been reflected in the Strategy.

4. Mr. President, the condemnation in this Strategy of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations signals the will of the international community that it would no longer tolerate the actions of the sponsors of terrorism or of those who wilfully fail to prevent terrorists from utilising their territories.

5. Mr. President, we continue to believe that a strong response to terrorism requires broad-based international cooperation, reducing the space for terrorists, and increasing the capability of States to address terrorist threats. It requires sustained and specific cooperation by a variety of national, regional and global agencies. We hope that the Strategy would provide the impetus to unite the international community in its fight against terrorism via practical measures that facilitate cooperation by way of extradition, prosecution, information flows, and capacity building.

6. We have gone along with the present process, Mr. President, while remaining convinced that the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism that we have been negotiating would have provided the requisite legal framework upon which a counter-terrorism strategy could have been based. The timeline set by the World Summit Outcome Document 2005 envisaged the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention in the 60th UNGA session. We continue to believe that agreement on it is attainable. We must now work together for the early finalization and adoption of the CCIT.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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