



STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON THREATS TO  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS AT THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL ON MAY 06, 2008

Mr. President,

At the outset, please accept my felicitations on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for this month. We are happy to participate in today's joint debate on three Security Council agenda items, whose implementation not only requires the fullest collective effort by the entire membership, but also their fullest participation in processes that affect the collective security of all nations equally. I will limit my remarks to a few comments, proceeding from my last statement on this subject in March this year, before this august body.

Mr. President,

To begin with, let me reiterate India's abiding determination to work towards concluding the long-pending effort to finalize a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), moving beyond debates that essentially miss the larger point. A CCIT must be agreed upon to create a strong interlocking network of member states, international organizations and specialized agencies working in unison to counter terrorism. The adoption of a CCIT, through exercising the law-making powers of the General Assembly, is in the interests of all member States and would reinvigorate the multi-lateral and collective dimensions of counter-terrorism efforts. India continues to call upon the world to act as one in denying terrorists, their ideologues and financiers access to arms, funds, means of transportation of their deadly goods, as well as safe havens.

For these overarching goals to be achieved there is also need for a more genuinely inclusive approach to be adopted by the Security Council taking along the larger membership of the General Assembly. While India remains committed to fully cooperating with all existing counter-terrorism mechanisms, as a State with a long experience of dealing with terrorism, we are of the view that better cooperation between the Council and the General Assembly will provide our collective efforts greater

legitimacy and ownership. There are also operational benefits to be achieved from greater collective pragmatism in tackling terrorism through multilateral mechanisms. Not the least of these potential benefits are better implementation of resolutions relating to counter-terrorism, namely UNSCRs 1267, 1373 and 1540, and their successor resolutions.

However, to reach that stage of pragmatic, goal-based cooperation, we need to do much more than we have done thus far. It is also unclear whether better implementation of these resolutions can be secured by “upgrading” their existing mandates, as in the recent case of the UNSCR 1810, or by working to identify genuine barriers to better implementation, and promoting a more collaborative system of extending assistance, utilizing available regional expertise and appropriate technologies. Implementation of UNSCR 1540, including reporting, remains a national responsibility on the basis of national legislation, arrangements and regulations. There may also be merit in an approach that ‘incentivizes’ cooperation rather than the current effort to continually raise the bar for implementation, by adding newer and more intrusive reporting obligations, irrespective of whether these are currently described as voluntary tasks. That apart, however, I also wish to reiterate at this juncture, India’s continuing emphasis on the need for closer and more comprehensive international cooperation to root out the phenomenon of illicit activities, such as clandestine proliferation of sensitive technologies which could contribute to the manufacture of WMDs.

The Security Council should also consider whether its existing procedures need some overhauling, in particular, with regard to the sanctions regime imposed upon Al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives, entities and their supporters. While at one level the effort to improve review and delisting modalities are to be welcomed, there is also a need for the Council to examine its own practice of selectively evaluating the provision of information that it seeks from Member States, which is sometimes not utilized for unrelated and procedural reasons.

With regard to the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the CTED, we are encouraged by the positive efforts of the dynamic new Executive Director. Greater dialogue and consultation with all member States, and better operational coordination with the CTITF is the correct way forward for a mechanism that eventually has a larger responsibility to the entire membership of the UN. Ultimately, we will collectively benefit from the furtherance of the ongoing process of making the CTED a completely professional, apolitical body that goes beyond analysis of reports. However, the CTED can only transcend the minutiae of examining reports and PIAs once it is no longer perceived as a largely political body, but as an apolitical, professional organization.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would venture the following suggestions:

- Better coordination between the various arms of the Council’s counter-terrorism mechanism must begin at home; in other words, inter-related aspects of the

work of the 1267 Committee, the 1540 Committee and the CTC should be dovetailed with those of the CTITF. These tasks should also be more closely linked with the core tasks of UNODC, Interpol, ICAO, IMO and others.

- While supporting the greater emphasis on the extension of technical assistance bilaterally, regionally and internationally, we should keep in mind the primary task of ensuring the fullest implementation of the relevant UNSCRs, before we take the process forward to more technical and potentially intrusive areas of implementation that may add to the sense of report fatigue among many member states.
- India remains willing to provide all assistance in the larger effort to counter the threat of terrorism. Our commitment to do so is already on record, in India's Fifth Report submitted to the CTC in March 2007; and we are willing to share information with other relevant UN mechanisms that work in these fields. Such assistance can be provided by India bilaterally or multilaterally, especially to countries that are themselves not directly threatened by terrorism, but whose participation is vital to the success of the larger international effort.

Mr President,

Our comments here today are in the spirit of pressing for further forward movement in bringing existing mechanisms to deal with terrorism closer together in operational terms. We welcome more efforts to use such open dialogues as a mechanism to build closer cooperation within the international system. Therefore we look forward to working in a pragmatic manner to alter the regrettable perception outside these walls that the UN's role in combating terrorism is limited to statements and speeches, but not to concrete measures. For this, we must not only work to foster better institutional cooperation and "jointedness" within the international system, we must also focus on implementing goals that can be achieved before mandating new and potentially challenging new commitments.

I thank you Mr. President.

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