



STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON
AGENDA ITEM 99 – MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AT
THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 08, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The Agenda item on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism is of great importance to my country as terrorism is one of the major threats to international peace and security and undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy, enjoyment of human rights and continued existence of open and democratic societies.

We thank the Secretary General for his annual report A/63/173 on the implementation of Para 10 of the “Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism” that presents measures taken at the national and international levels for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism as well as information on incidents caused by international terrorism. We appreciate the growing role of UNODC in counter terrorism efforts, especially its technical assistance activities at the national, sub regional and regional levels, within the framework of its global project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism and now as a part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We thank the Secretary General for his Report A/63/89 on the subject. We would also like to thank Ambassador Rohan Perera for his report A/63/37 on the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210 and the Facilitator of the Working group for all her efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The 13 major UN instruments relating to specific terrorist activities remain fundamental tools in the fight against terrorism. India is a Party to all the 13 major legal instruments. We also attach utmost importance to the fulfillment of obligations under the relevant counter terrorism resolutions of the United Nations. We have filed five National Reports with the Counter Terrorism

Committee, giving a comprehensive picture of steps taken by India to counter terrorism. We utilize all available tools within the arsenal of a democratic nation, governed by the rule of law, to counter terrorism. They comprise laws criminalizing terrorism, including incitement, raising of funds for terrorist activities, holding of proceeds of terrorism, harboring of terrorists, unauthorized possession of any explosive substances or other lethal weapons; monitoring of financial flows, effective legislation regarding dual use items; surveillance methods governed by law and old fashioned police investigation work.

The intricate linkages and networks that unite terror groups can only be challenged through concerted international cooperation and efforts by way of extradition, prosecution and information flows. India is engaged in these efforts at the regional as well as bilateral level.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, adopted two years ago, established a global counter-terrorism framework and presented a template that is pivotal to guiding counter terrorism efforts of Member States as well the United Nations system.

The international conventions on terrorism focus on promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism but, for the first time, the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy also recognizes the need to express solidarity with innocent victims of this scourge and specifically addresses victims of terrorism through two of its main pillars. This was necessary to accord adequate recognition and support to victims of terrorism. In this regard we appreciate the convening of the symposium on victims of terrorism last month that helped to put a human face on the effects of terrorism and provided a forum for victims' voices.

Last month, the General Assembly also reviewed the implementation of the Strategy where Member States focused on their respective national, bilateral, regional and global initiatives to implement the Strategy. They described measures that have been taken to implement, at the national level, international conventions that govern controls over arms and banking systems; measures for enforcement of effective customs, immigration and border controls that are necessary to prevent the movement of terrorists and the establishment of safe havens; conclusion of anti-terrorism instruments at the regional level; and other activities and projects on capacity-building and technical assistance. The wide participation of Member States in the Review process demonstrated the importance they attach to effectively counter terrorism and that the Strategy was vital to their counter-terrorism efforts.

The Secretary General's Report on activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy highlighted the efforts of the United Nations system to support implementation of the Strategy, both through its individual departments, specialized agencies, funds and programs and through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The institutionalization of the Task Force, supported by the General Assembly, we hope, would significantly strengthen its efforts to enable the different United Nations entities to effectively cooperate, coordinate and streamline the work of the United Nations system in the field of counter terrorism. In this regard the proposed "integrated implementation initiative" will help the United Nations to avoid duplication.

We believe that the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rests on Member States and hope that the Strategy would provide the impetus to unite them in the fight against terrorism via practical measures that facilitate cooperation by way of extradition, prosecution, information exchange, and capacity building.

However, notwithstanding the importance of the Strategy, we strongly believe that the General Assembly's inability to reach an agreement on concluding the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) limits the impact of its counterterrorism efforts. In the Working Group meeting in October last Session, the facilitator in her report had said that some Member States still had concerns regarding certain issues, namely the importance of the need not to affect the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; the need to capture concerns relating to "State terrorism"; resolution of matters concerning potential impunity of military forces; and the need to delineate activities to be covered by the scope of the convention and those covered by humanitarian instruments. The facilitator thereafter had provided a very reasoned analysis of the package that she had proposed and explained how each of the concern was taken care of in the proposed text. Thereafter no Member State has voiced any additional concerns or need for further clarifications. If there still are any concerns then it would be useful to have them clearly delineated so that the Committee can have a clear understanding of those so as to enable it to reach agreement on the Convention.

Mr. Chairman

We believe that the package presented by the Facilitator presents a careful balance and bridges the divergent views. We therefore urge Member States to seriously consider and adopt the Package and facilitate the successful closure of the protracted negotiating process of concluding the CCIT.

The adoption of a CCIT, through exercising the law-making powers of the General Assembly, is in the interest of all member States and would reinvigorate

the multi-lateral and collective dimensions of counter-terrorism efforts. We believe that when adopted, CCIT would provide a solid legal basis for the fight against terrorism. In this era of unrestrained violence, where innocent civilians are being targeted, UN personnel and premises are being attacked and assassinations are being carried out, we urge that there be expeditious action in this forum.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)