



STATEMENT BY MR. HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON
AGENDA ITEM 104 – 'CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE & AGENDA ITEM
105 – 'INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL' AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 63RD
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 09, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for his statement in this Committee yesterday and also the Secretary General for all his reports under this Agenda Items related to 'Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice' and 'International Drug Control'.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is the scourge of our times. It undermines peace, democracy and freedom, endangering the international community and humankind as a whole. India has been a victim of terrorism for decades. The barbaric terrorist attack on the innocent people of Mumbai on November 26, 2008 reminded us of the daily and malignant menace that terrorism poses to all countries.

Our diplomatic missions are also being targeted. In July 2008, the Embassy of India in Kabul was subject to a dastardly attack in which a large number of people lost their life, including Indian diplomats, security personnel and scores of Afghan civilians.

Earlier today, our Embassy in Kabul was again subjected to yet another terrorist attack, which has resulted in injury of Indian security personnel as well as death of large number of Afghan civilians. Countless innocent lives have been lost to heinous terrorist attacks. It is imperative that our resolve against perpetrators of such attacks now be manifested in a strong and resolute manner.

While it is important for the international community to condemn terrorism and these attacks in an unequivocal manner, it is also critical that we strengthen the legal framework in the fight against terrorism. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) has been under negotiations for years at the UN and,

indeed, the Working Group on CCIT is meeting right now. It is time for the global community to conclude the negotiations and make a firm commitment by adopting the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to express our profound concern on the deep-rooted nexus between drug mafias, arms dealers, and money launderers for financing terrorism. This is a grave, dangerous and destructive nexus. There is a need to create as well as reinforce bilateral, regional and international cooperation to develop strategies to combat the menace of this nexus. We support the efforts of the UNODC in providing necessary assistance to countries to put in place appropriate counterterrorism legislation. More efforts are also needed at national, regional and international level to implement practical measures on the ground to tackle this.

Mr. Chairman,

A notable observation in this year's World Drug Report (2009) has been the evidence of reduction in the cultivation of crops for drugs and decline in the demand for illicit drugs globally. Perhaps, it is time that we build on these gains by strengthening our efforts to tackle this menace.

In this regard, the Secretary General's report on 'international cooperation against the world drug problem' has rightly identified long-term national and international political as well as financial commitment to the alternative development programmes of supply reduction strategies as the cornerstone in the fight against the menace of illicit drug. Unfortunately, there has not been substantial support for these activities by the international community in the affected regions.

We would like to voice our support for such initiatives by strengthening not just North-South cooperation but also South-South cooperation by sharing of best practices and lessons learnt as well as by providing technical assistance. It should be our endeavour to further strengthen our efforts in providing sustainable alternative livelihood to the cultivators of these crops and strive for overall economic development of such regions.

Mr. Chairman,

The need to counter the problem of drug addiction is imperative. While harm reduction approach has been tried, countries and policy makers should make an informed and evidence based decision on this issue.

India is the world's largest producers of licit opium. Therefore, we pursue balanced drug control measures. We ensure that the demand and supply of licit opiates

required for genuine medicinal and scientific purposes is maintained and there is no proliferation of manufacture beyond the traditional and established manufacturers of licit opiate. In this context we welcome INCB's contribution in monitoring the balance between demand and supply for opiate for legitimate purposes.

Mr. Chairman

India has evolved its Code of Criminal Procedure and other relevant laws to ensure speedy justice to all. This also takes into account the rights of citizen. India has enacted strong anti-money laundering domestic legislation and has also entered into bilateral agreements with several countries to develop joint programs to prevent money laundering, counter terrorism and organized crime. India is a signatory to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols as well as the UN Convention against Corruption.

Mr. Chairman,

International peace and security is the very bedrock of every nation. No amount of social progress can secure us against transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money laundering and international terrorism. Problems of such transnational nature and global magnitude can only be dealt with cooperation at the national, regional and international level. India remains committed to working bilaterally and through regional and international cooperation towards a world free of transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money laundering, illegal arms transactions and last but not the least, terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS