

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr Jagdish Koonjul

**Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations**

at

The Security Council Public Meeting

on

**Threats to international peace and security
caused by terrorist acts**

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Check Against Delivery

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And now in my national capacity, I wish to make the following statement.

We thank the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Greenstock, for his comprehensive and informative briefing on the work of the Committee. My delegation joins other delegations to pay special tribute to you Mr. Chairman and your Staff for the wonderful work at the level of the Committee. We commend you for your relentless efforts, commitment and dedication to the work you have undertaken.

The September 11 attacks proved, once again, that combating international terrorism is not only important in its own right, but remains the main priority of the international community, regional organizations and individual States. We came to realize that no country, whether big or small, rich or poor, developed or developing, could ensure its security from such dastardly attacks carried out by terrorists or terrorist groups if concerted actions were not taken at all levels.

International terrorism has become a pressing, complex, and unpredictable real global challenge that needs urgent attention at all levels. The Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), which is a binding and mandatory collective approach to rid the world from the scourge of terrorism, is the right step that requires unanimous support on all fronts.

The overwhelming response from States within the targeted time limit for the submission of national reports is a feat in itself. The large number of reports received as of date reflects the seriousness of the issue and also the dedication and commitment of Member States to the implementation of Resolution 1373. This shows the strong and resolute determination of one and all to do away with the plague that international terrorism represents.

However, we cannot be self-complacent. As one of the major threats to humanity, terrorism has made our task more daunting. We are confident that by 27 March 2002, the review of the first set of reports will be completed. In this regard my delegation urges those States that have not yet submitted their national reports to do so expeditiously.

Combating international terrorism will not be easy if a comprehensive and collective plan of action is missing. This is a fight where all States need to act promptly and decisively. Failure on the part of one State can break the chain of support that the international community desperately needs to combat by all means and, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security posed by terrorist acts. All States should therefore fully collaborate in the implementation of

Resolution 1373 (2002) and put in place necessary mechanisms at national level with a view to ridding the world from the scourge of international terrorism.

At our national level every effort is geared toward prevention and suppression of terrorist acts. In this regard we are fully cooperating with the international and regional organizations for the implementation of the relevant international as well as regional conventions relating to terrorism. In March of this year the National Assembly will consider the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Bill, the Criminal and Related Matters (Mutual Assistance) Bill. The Prevention of Terrorism Bill takes on board all the provisions of in Resolution 1373 in the fight against terrorism. We are convinced that the proposed Bills will consolidate the measures already in place for dealing with terrorist acts and their financing.

On a regional basis, at the Meeting of the Committee of Ministers for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation held last December in Luanda, Angola on 18 December 2001, Mauritius, along with other SADC members, underscored the need for regional mechanisms and a coordinated approach to the implementation of resolution 1373. As party to the Luanda Declaration Member States unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism and undertook to accede or ratify international instruments on combating terrorism, adopted by the OAU and the United Nations and incorporate them into domestic laws, cooperate at all levels in the exchange of information, identification of persons, institutions and networks associated with terrorism and prevent SADC Member States from being used as bases or support centers for groups or individuals involved in terrorist acts.

The fight against international terrorism is indeed a peculiar one, which requires close cooperation within and among regions in other related issues such as suppression of drug-trafficking, dealings in small arms and light weapons and money laundering. My delegation strongly supports all the regional approaches adopted so far in addressing these issues as required under paragraph 4 of the Resolution 1373.

My delegation fully supports the methodology of work as adopted by the Committee on Counter-Terrorism. The transparent and evenhandedness, which have now become the thumb rule of the work of the Committee give the necessary assurance to Member States that all norms of objectivity and impartiality are strictly observed and applied. The Committee being only a monitoring body is not there to pass any judgment, nor is it to be interpreted as a police. It is a working organism as you rightly described it Mr. Chairman in your briefing, to assist States in the implementation of all the provisions of Resolution 1373.

With the Guidance to Member States for the preparation of their respective national reports and the appointment of a Pool of experts to assist the Committee as well as the Member States that would require assistance in various fields in the implementation process of Resolution 1373, we are convinced that the mandate of the Committee as set out in the Resolution will be fulfilled within the prescribed time frame.

Since terrorism strikes at the very heart of everything that the United Nations stands for and represents a global threat to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and stability, a truly concerted international effort to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is what is required. The Committee is resolved to fulfilling its mandate in the most dedicated manner.