

Statement by Mr. Gokhool on Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts – 15 April 2002

My delegation would like to thank the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Ambassador Greenstock, for his comprehensive and informative briefing on the work of the Committee. My delegation also joins others in commending him and his staff for the very good work done by the Committee. Let me also express my satisfaction for the immense contribution of the Secretariat and the experts to the work of the Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the views and comments expressed by Ambassador Greenstock on the work of the Committee, and we fully support the contents of the draft presidential statement to be adopted after this meeting.

The overwhelming response to resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States is not only a manifestation of the international global alliance against the scourge of terrorism, but is also telling evidence of the desire of each Member State to rid its territory of terrorism. Perhaps this is the first resolution ever to receive such a degree of acclaim and support from Members. Indeed, it must be. When we see the indiscriminate atrocities and callous violence meted out to innocent citizens by barbaric acts of terrorism, when we assess the economic and social damage and the disruption resulting from irresponsible terrorist acts, and, most of all, when we imagine the trials and traumas suffered by the victims and their families, including women and children, we realize the imperative need for immediate action at the national, regional and international level with a view to doing away with the plague that international terrorism represents.

The work conducted by the CTC during the first and second 90-day periods is, indeed, impressive. Most of all, we appreciate the transparent and even-handed manner in which the Committee has been operating. We strongly support the procedures that have been adopted; they have been very rewarding in terms of establishing confidence-building measures between Member States and the CTC. As Mauritius is one of the vice-chairmen of the Committee, my delegation would like to thank the members of the Council for the confidence placed in our delegation. We will continue to work with

determination and to shoulder the responsibility of the vice-chairmanship over the next six months with full dedication.

Terrorism cannot be wiped out on this planet without the true and genuine engagement of all countries, individually and collectively. The submission of reports by countries is only the initial stage in the process. Constructive action to combat terrorism will require more than pledges and promises. Effective enforcement at the domestic level of the international conventions signed by Member States would be a good start. In addition, it will be necessary for each country to incorporate the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001) into its domestic legislation.

Allow me to make a few remarks on our experiences with respect to our vice-chairmanship of the Committee and Chairmanship of Subcommittee B. We have been confronted with many questions from the Member States that have so far been invited to our meetings to take cognizance of the draft letters addressed to them following the assessment of their respective reports. Here, we would like to share some of their concerns.

First, States have asked whether some of the questions in the draft letter might not be beyond the scope and purview of the mandate of resolution 1373 (2001). Secondly, they have asked whether the answers to the questions set out in the draft letters would in any way help in understanding whether, or concluding that, a country has complied with resolution 1373 (2001) or whether it has taken sufficient steps to deal with the problem of international terrorism. Thirdly, they have asked what the next course of action might be after the reports of all Member States have been thoroughly studied at the level of the CTC.

While we do not have clear and precise replies to those questions, we believe that the objectives set out in the resolution speak for themselves, and the very comprehensive statement of the Chairman today will help us to clarify many of the points raised.

Another pertinent question is the linkage between respect for human rights and the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). It is the view of many Member States that anti-terrorism measures should not be an excuse for the violation of human rights. It is important to remind ourselves of what the Secretary-General said at a meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva on 12 April this year. He said: "while the Council has

primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, this Commission has a particular responsibility to promote the international implementation of human rights. Therefore it must make every effort to protect those threatened by violations of human rights, whether these violations result directly from terrorism or are committed in the name of counter-terrorism.”

Finally, let me conclude by making two observations. First, terrorism is the enemy of peace, life, hope and society. It is the enemy of all that we should strive for and of the aspirations of ordinary people. Secondly, in order to fight terrorism and eradicate it from the globe, it is important to address its causes.