



INDIA
भारत

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STATEMENT BY
MR. M. KOTESWARA RAO
COUNSELLOR & LEGAL ADVISER
ON AGENDA ITEM 108
“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”
AT THE
SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE
70TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 13, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

This being the first time I am taking the floor, I join others in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Sixth Committee. I also congratulate other members of the Bureau. I assure you of the full cooperation and support of the Indian delegation during the proceedings of the Committee. I also congratulate Mr. Huw Llewellyn on his appointment as Director of the Codification Division.

I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/70/211 dated 29 July 2015 entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

Terrorism is the scourge of our times. Terrorism has emerged as a major destabilising force and threat to world order. In many cases it can threaten the stability of governments or even the very existence of the States. Terrorism can also undermine the very foundations of a democratic political and social order.

The international community needs to adopt a policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism. Our collective condemnation of terrorism must be loud, clear and without any ambiguity. No cause or grievance whatsoever can justify acts of terrorism.

The General Assembly plays an important role in our collective combat against international terrorism. The work done by the Ad-hoc Committee established by the UN General Assembly to develop more effective international instruments against terrorism is invaluable in this context. We welcome the progress achieved by the Ad hoc Committee so far, which has led to the adoption of three international treaties.

However, the Ad hoc Committee's efforts to develop the draft of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) has languished so far. India first brought this proposal in 1996! It is a Convention that would go a long way to strengthen the international legal framework and instruments available to us to combat this scourge. But we have so far been unable to adopt it and have entangled ourselves in issues of definition. When we tackle this issue Mr. Chairman, we need to remind ourselves that there can be no distinction between acceptable and unacceptable or good and bad terrorism. And terrorism has no religion at all!

We, therefore, take this opportunity to reiterate our support to the text of the draft convention that was proposed by the Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee in 2007.

Recalling paragraph 24 of resolution of the UN General Assembly 69/127 of 10th December 2014, we look forward to the discussions in the Working Group of the Sixth Committee in the present session to finalize the text of this draft Convention. Mr. Chairman given the threats we face today, 19 years is much too long a delay.

This will go a long way in strengthening the normative framework by expanding the scope of legal instruments available to us.

India also supports efforts within the United Nations that will lead to strengthening of international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. We attach

importance to counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level. We have been in the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts and are part of all major global initiatives, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

India remains deeply concerned about the issue of financing terrorism, and strongly condemns direct or indirect financial assistance given to terrorist groups or individual members thereof by States or its machineries, to pursue their activities, including in defending the criminal cases involving terrorist acts against them.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the existing resolutions of the Security Council, in particular, Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011) 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015) mandate States to take action to prevent and suppress terrorist acts and refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists. The last Resolution in particular obliges States to ensure that any person who participates or has participated in the financing, planning, or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts should be brought to justice.

Mr. Chairman,

The fight against terrorism has to be unrelenting and fought across all fronts. The international community cannot afford selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or in dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism. We must step up our collective efforts with real cooperation among member States to confront the scourge of terrorism squarely and decisively. Resort to the use of terrorism as an instrument of State Policy cannot be tolerated. Indeed, those who have taken recourse to it have invariably suffered themselves proving the age old dictum that those who play with the sword, shall also perish by it.

Thank you