



**INDIA**  
**भारत**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 112**

**“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”**

**AT THE**

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 77th SESSION OF THE**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK**

**3 OCTOBER 2022**

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation would like to congratulate the Chair, H.E. Mr. Pedro Comissário Afonso (of Mozambique) and members of the Bureau on your election. I take this opportunity to assure you of my delegation's support during the proceedings. We thank the Secretary General for his Report.

2. As our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly emphasized: "Terrorism is a threat to humanity". Indeed, terrorism is an attack on the values that define the international community and seriously impairs the enjoyment of human rights including the right to life. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses by terrorists. It is, therefore, necessary to root out terrorism to protect human rights, including the rights of victims and their families

3. My delegation condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We firmly believe that there cannot be any justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of motivations and justifications behind such acts. Terrorists at any one corner of the World are threat to global peace and therefore, our response to this global challenge should be unified, coordinated, and effective.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. India has been at the receiving end of State-sponsored, cross-border terrorism for past several decades. We have also had first-hand experience of crime syndicates venturing into terrorism. Long before 9/11, we witnessed the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts that claimed more than 250 innocent lives. Unfortunately, the persons responsible for the blasts continue to enjoy State protection and hospitality in our neighboring country.

5. In addition, UN-designated terrorist groups, their aliases, and their leaders as well their proxies, continue to operate from across the border. The attack on Indian Parliament in 2001, the 2006 Mumbai train blasts, the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, the 2016 Uri attack on the military camp and the 2019 Pulwama attack on security personnel are some of the major instances of the cross-border terrorism perpetrated by these very terrorist groups. The conspirators, masterminds and sponsors remain under State protection in our immediate neighbourhood.

6. We have also witnessed a spate of terror incidents recently in India's neighborhood in the form of series of attacks on religious places of minority Sikh community in Kabul and on places of worship and schools of other minorities this year. The recent findings of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to the 1267 Sanctions Committee and 1888 Committee point to a significant increase in the presence of foreign

terrorist organizations including ISIL-K in Afghanistan and their capacity to carry out attacks. The linkages between terrorist groups listed by the UNSC as well as statements made by other terrorist groups - operating out of Afghanistan - calling for violence and acts of terrorism, pose a direct threat to the peace and stability of the region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. The growing use of Internet and social media platforms to spread terrorist and violent extremist propaganda has posed serious challenges to Governments and the technology industry alike. The increase in the use of new technologies and digital applications and platforms to move and store funds, including through virtual assets, online exchanges and wallets, privacy coins pose the risk of abuse by terrorists for terrorism-financing and other terror-linked purposes. There is need for greater coordination and vigilance the part of Member-States and all the stakeholders - including financial and digital sector players.

8. Countering the threat posed by use of new and emerging technologies by terrorist groups has been one of the priorities for my delegation at the United Nations, including in the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the UN Security Council which is Chaired by India this year. As a part of our initiative regarding this important aspect of counter terrorism, India as the Chair of the CTC, will be hosting a Special meeting of CTC in Mumbai and Delhi on 28 and 29 October 2022, to deliberate on various facets of this issue with all the stakeholders. We invite all Member States to participate in this Special Meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. Half a decade prior to the adoption of Resolution 1373 by the Security Council, India took the initiative to pilot the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, with the objective of providing a comprehensive legal framework to combat terrorism. We strongly urge Member States to join in our efforts and end the stalemate preventing the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). We believe that when right course of action is not taken at the right time, then the international community will stand as a moot spectator to preventable incidents of terrorism and loss of innocent lives. We should not let this continue.

10. We all need CCIT as law enforcement instrument that should strengthen the existing framework of global anti-terrorism conventions. India reiterates the need for early finalization of Draft CCIT. We firmly believe that UN needs to do more in this direction. India hopes that GA Resolution 76/121 of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 which in Para 25 recommends to the Sixth Committee, at the Seventy- Seventh session, to establish the "Working Group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive

convention on international terrorism”, will bring finality to the most important task in hand before the international community.

**Mr. Chairman,**

11. We need to summon the political will to combat terrorism, and not allow terrorism to be justified and terrorists glorified. Enlisting and delisting individuals and entities under the UN sanctions regimes must be done objectively, free from double standards, and not for political or religious considerations. Linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime must be fully recognized and addressed vigorously.

12. I would like to re-iterate the need for ‘zero tolerance’ to terrorism in its all forms and manifestations. There cannot be any exception or justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of motivation, and wherever, whenever and by whomever it is committed. As UNSC resolution 1566 (2004) mentions, "terrorism, under no circumstances is justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnical, religious or other similar nature” in international counter terrorism instruments and conventions.

13. It may be recalled that my External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar had proposed an 8-point “Action Plan” in his clarion call for the international community to combat the menace of terrorism effectively and comprehensively. These 8 action points from his address to the UNSC Open Debate on “Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts” in January last year [2021] merit reiterating on this occasion:

- Summon the political will
- Say no to double standards
- Reform the working methods of the Committees dealing with Sanctions and Counter Terrorism
- Firmly discourage exclusivist thinking that encourages radicalization
- Listing and delisting under UNSC sanctions to be done objectively
- Address linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime
- Identify and remedy weaknesses in anti-money laundering regime under FATF
- Adequately fund UN Counter Terrorism bodies

**Mr. Chairman,**

14. Let me conclude by saying that the fight against terrorism must be unrelenting and across all fronts. The international community needs to stand united in addressing this threat to humanity with zero tolerance. India remains committed to engage and support all such meaningful efforts in this direction. Thank you.

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