

**6th Committee of the 79th Session of the UNGA
(Agenda Item 110)
“Measures To Eliminate International Terrorism”**

India Statement

(2 - 4th October 2024)

Thank you Mr. Chair.

2. Terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security. Terrorism is the worst violation of human rights and personal freedoms. 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.

3. It remains a global challenge with cross-border networks driven by ideological & political support, recruitment, organised crime, training, finance, and new & emerging technologies. Terrorist groups have enormously increased their capabilities by acquiring new and cutting-edge technologies, including drones and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) with cameras.

4. This growing menace can only be tackled through effective international collaboration, which remains elusive to a large measure because of political divides. The international community is far from reaching a consensus on how to fight this menace collectively. It is unfortunate that while terrorism remains unabated, destroying humanity and societies around the world, our efforts towards CCIT are constrained by narrow differences.

Mr. Chair,

5. The world had only woken up to the perils of terrorism after 9/11 attacks of 2001, which then led to several multilateral initiatives, including the resolution 1373, which established the Counter Terrorism Committee. Long before these initiatives, India as part of the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism, established in 1972, has been calling for a comprehensive multilateral legal framework to counter terrorism. In November 1996, India took initiative to circulate a “first draft” of the a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism or CCIT. It has been almost 30 years, however a consensus on this eludes us.

6. The Pact of the Future adopted on 22 September 2024 at the Summit of the Future has again underscored the determination of the Member States to pursue a future free from terrorism. We urge Member States to take an objective approach and end the stalemate preventing the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on

International Terrorism (CCIT). India reiterates the need for early finalization of Draft CCIT. 7. On the definition of international terrorism, we believe the OP3 of the UNSC resolution 1566 (2004), provides a comprehensive definition for international terrorism, which could be a basis for further discussion.

Mr. Chair,

7. India has faced the horrors of state sponsored cross border terrorism much prior to the world taking serious note of it. Over the last more than three decades, we have lost thousands of innocent civilian lives. The 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, the 2016 Pathankot air base attack and the 2019 suicide bombing of our policemen at Pulwama are imprinted strongly in every Indian's living memory. We have and will continue to fight terrorism resolutely, bravely and with a zero-tolerance approach.

8. It is unfortunate that some amongst us, motivated by their narrow political agendas, look for reasons to justify terrorism. Because of these states, the global resolve to fight against terrorism gets diminished. Because of such states, even 15 years after the Mumbai Terror attacks, the masterminds continue to roam scot free – with full state hospitality.

9. Not only do such States justify terrorism, their governments and their agencies have made 'Terrorism' their State Policy. Moreover, in order to deflect the attention of the international community from their nefarious agendas, such States attempt to portray themselves as "victims of terrorism".

10. UN proscribed terrorist organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and their affiliates and proxies have been perpetrating terror attacks on Indian soil. The Reports of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team have highlighted the threats posed to India by these terror groups. We must work towards strengthening the effectiveness of UNSCR 1267. A strong legal framework also needs to be established.

Mr. Chair,

11. India has been at the forefront of global counter terrorism efforts. India has

engaged actively with the global counter terrorism architecture, including at the United Nations and platforms like GCTF.

12. In the past two years, we have convened several international events in India to bring greater focus on terrorism. India hosted the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Counter Terrorism in Financing 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) in New Delhi in November 2022. Participants from 78 countries, including some of the GCTF countries, and 16 multilateral organisations attended the Conference.

13. As the Chair of the UN Security Council Committee on Counter Terrorism (UNCTC), India hosted a special session of the UNSC CTC in October 2022 in Mumbai, the site of the 26/11 terrorist attack from across the border. The Committee also met in Delhi and adopted the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorism.

14. India hosted the INTERPOL General Assembly also in October 2022, where a resolution was adopted on combating financial corruption including illicit financial flows.

15. In concluding, Mr. Chair, let me reiterate the 8-point action plan proposed to the international community by our External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar in January 2021 while participating in a debate to commemorate 20 years of the establishment of the Counter Terrorism Committee. He spoke about the need for greater political will; saying no to double standards; reform of the UN Sanctions Committees; objective listing and delisting in the Sanctions Committees; and discouraging exclusivist thinking and being on guard against new terminologies and false priorities; recognizing linkages to organized crime; supporting FATF and greater funding to UNOCT.

16. We hope implementation of these key principles will greatly help us in combating the ever-growing threat of terrorism. I thank you Mr. Chair.
