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STATEMENT

BY

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION

ON

**AGENDA ITEM107: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM**

AT THE

**WORKING GROUP OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM**

65th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chairman,

I am very pleased to welcome you and the facilitator, Ms. Maria Telalian here in New York to chair the meeting of the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee to facilitate the CCIT process move forward. We greatly appreciate your untiring efforts towards the finalization of the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT). We also congratulate other members of the bureau on their election. I assure you of India's full cooperation and support in all your efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ad Hoc Committee in April 2010 generated good momentum highlighting the urgent need for adoption of the draft CCIT during 65th session of the UNGA. During the General Debate this year many delegations again reiterated their support for successful and early conclusion of the draft CCIT.

The Secretary General in paragraph 139 of his report on the review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy has very aptly pointed out that, and I quote, "the comprehensiveness of implementing the Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. As committed in the Strategy, Member States should make every effort to reach an agreement on the text and conclude the convention in order to unite behind the global counter-terrorism efforts".

The recent Security Council Presidential statement also encourages Member States to make every effort to conclude the negotiations of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The negotiations over the years have by and large got a near full text of the draft Convention with the general agreement. There are just a few outstanding issues in article 18 that need be sorted out and I am hopeful that our collective wisdom will spare no efforts to achieve this objective.

Mr. Chairman,

We are here today to carry out a mandate that has been reminded to us by our leaders in different fora, by the General Assembly, and by the United Nations leadership repeatedly.

We are here not to repeat the rhetoric. We are also not here to merely remind ourselves about the need for early finalization and conclusion of the draft CCIT. We are here to take action and move forward. We should sort out any differences that exist between us on the outstanding issues.

Mr. Chairman,

We all know that this Ad Hoc Committee cannot provide solutions to problems arising out of political situations. The political solutions have to be explored through political process. We are here to finalize and conclude a law enforcement instrument that will supplement and strengthen the existing global framework of anti-terrorism conventions and provide to international community another important tool in its fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of outstanding issues, we see that a broad consensus exists amongst delegations on the following basic principles;

1. That international terrorism cannot be tolerated in any form or manifestation.
2. That we need CCIT as law enforcement instrument that should strengthen the existing framework of global anti-terrorism conventions.
3. That the convention should not affect the other rights, obligations and responsibilities, inter-alia, of peoples under international law, Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law.
4. That the military forces of a State should remain outside the scope of the convention, while not providing impunity for the wrongs, if any, committed by such forces.
5. That the convention should not, in any manner, affect the sanctity of the regime applicable in armed conflict under international humanitarian law and what is legal under international humanitarian law shall remain legal.
6. That the convention cannot make lawful, otherwise unlawful acts.

Mr. Chairman,

We have already lost invaluable time in taking concrete decisions on this very important issue. No country is immune from terrorism. Every now and then, one or the other country, whether developed or developing, rich or poor, is brutally

targeted by terrorists. It is high time to show solidarity and take collective global action against international terrorism and to send a clear message to terrorists that international community is united in its resolve that terrorism cannot be tolerated in any form or manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

From 2002 we have come a long way. In 2007 the facilitator tried to come up with a compromise package text reflecting the delicate balance that could be accepted by all delegations. In view of my delegation the facilitator's 2007 package proposal presents a viable, delicately balanced compromise text and like many other delegations, and for the sake of compromise, we are also inclined to go along with that package. It is imperative that this Committee must also address any legitimate concerns of any delegation that is not yet addressed under the facilitator's 2007 package proposal.

In the April 2010 session of the Ad Hoc Committee, the facilitator further explained her package proposal and suggested a way out to reach agreement on the text of the draft Convention. We were encouraged to see that delegations were inclined to consider common understanding on the facilitators' package proposal.

We strongly urge delegations that still have any legitimate issue left unaddressed in the facilitator's 2007 package proposal to come forward and discuss it in an open, honest and transparent manner.

The proposal suggested by Switzerland on the adoption of CCIT and thereafter convening the high level conference on international terrorism is a good one and we would like to engage ourselves constructively with Swiss delegation in working out the modalities of its implementation.

We look forward to you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership, ingenuity and guidance during the present session of the Working Group so that a text of the convention can be recommended for adoption during this session of the General Assembly.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.