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STATEMENT

BY

**Hon'ble Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad
Member of Parliament
And
Member of the Indian Delegation**

on

**Agenda item: 100
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism**

**Sixth Committee
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Thank You, Mr. Chairman

The Agenda item on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism is of great significance to my country as terrorism remains one of the major threats to international peace and security. It undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy, enjoyment of human rights and continued existence of open and democratic societies. The annual report submitted by the Secretary General on the implementation of Para 10 of the "Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" presents measures taken at the national and international levels for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism as well as information on incidents caused by international terrorism. We thank the Secretary General for this useful report. We would also like to thank Ambassador Rohan Perera for his report on the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210.

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations is a criminal and unjustifiable act. It cannot be condoned or accepted as legitimate in any situation. Justifications on diplomatic political, religious, philosophical or any other grounds remain untenable. The 1994 Declaration is most categorical in this respect and provides that no considerations of political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature could justify criminal acts intended or calculated to promote a state of terror in the general public. This principle is also reiterated in several conventions against terrorism.

In recent months my country has again been subject to horrific terrorist attacks. In July, simultaneous bombings in 7 trains in Mumbai and elsewhere in India claimed more than 200 lives and injured more than 1000. Thereafter a bomb attack near a place of worship killed 35 people. These bombings were clearly designed to spread terror among common people, harm economy and trigger communal clashes. It is a measure of good sense and resilience of ordinary people that the attempt failed. This senseless killing of

innocent civilians in my country and elsewhere reinforces the continuing importance of strong international resolve and a coordinated global approach to confront the threat posed by terrorism.

Mr. Chairman

In April this year, the Secretary General in his report titled "Uniting against Terrorism: Recommendations for a Global Counter Terrorism Strategy", provided the Assembly with recommendations for a collective global effort to fight terrorism, especially in developing State capacity to defeat terrorism and defend human rights. On the basis of this report the General Assembly, vide its resolution 60/288, adopted the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy which was launched at a high level segment at the beginning of the 61st Session. The strategy, in the form of a resolution and a plan of action, includes practical measures of implementation at the local, national and international level - ranging from strengthening the capacity of individual States to preventing and combating terrorism, to ensuring that human rights and the rule of law are always respected in the fight against terrorism. The strategy makes clear that it is important to consistently, unequivocally and strongly condemn terrorism in all forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

We trust that the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the Strategy would signal the will of the international community that it would no longer tolerate the actions of the sponsors of terrorism or of those who wilfully fail to prevent terrorists from utilising their territories for moral or material shelter. We hope that the strategy would provide the impetus that unites the international community in its global fight against terrorism through practical measures that facilitate cooperation by way of extradition, prosecution, information flows and capacity building.

Mr. Chairman

As regards the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism, notwithstanding the setback of not meeting the timeline set by the World Summit Outcome Document for concluding the convention, we continue to believe that agreement on the draft convention is attainable. The call for early conclusion of CCIT was reiterated by practically all the dignitaries in the general debate this session. A meeting is necessary to work for early conclusion of the CCIT. We must now work together for its finalization and adoption. We sincerely hope that, in a spirit of mutual accommodation and flexibility, Member States would respond constructively and help in the early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention so that our mandate of completing the legal framework of conventions aimed at combating international terrorism can be brought to a successful close. We may determine whether appropriate reference to international humanitarian law could meet the pending concerns.

On the question of convening a high level conference under the auspices of United Nations, we reiterate our view that the conference should be convened only after the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman

We attach great value to the comprehensive legal framework that the UN General Assembly has successfully established in the field of counter-terrorism. The 13 UN Conventions and Protocols remain fundamental tools in the fight against terrorism. In this regard we also note the "Report of the Secretary General on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime". We appreciate the growing activities of UNODC in counter terrorism efforts, especially its technical assistance activities at the national, sub regional and regional levels, within the framework of its global project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism. We are pleased to note that its work has contributed significantly to

increasing the number of countries that have ratified all twelve universal legal instruments relating to terrorism. We understand that the focus of the technical assistance activities of UNODC is shifting from the phase of ratification support to the phase of legislative implementation and support for national counter terrorism capacity building for criminal justice systems. We therefore, support increased resource allocations for UNODC counter terrorism activities from the United Nations regular budget and voluntary contributions.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman