Introduction of the resolution “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” in the First Committee of 60th UNGA

Statement by Jayant Prasad, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution on “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.”

The resolution, first adopted in 2002, has continued to command consensus support in 2002 both within the First Committee and the General Assembly, as also a growing number of co-sponsors.

It gives expression to the concerns of the international community and calls upon Member States of the United Nations to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring WMD. It underlines that the international response to this threat needs to be inclusive, multilateral and global. This approach has been widely endorsed, by the Non-Aligned Movement, the G-8, the European Union and most other regional organisations.

Besides some technical updates, the resolution takes cognisance of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council Resolution 1540. The new preambular paragraph 5 welcomes the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the new preambular paragraph 6 welcomes the adoption of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials by the IAEA. A new operative paragraph 2 invites all Member States to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism to enable its early entry into force.

The resolution has continuing relevance as an unambiguous statement from a body that is universal and democratic. The representative character of the General Assembly validates and reinforces the commitments we assume as Member States in regard to its objective.

I appeal to delegations of the First Committee to extend to this initiative an even wider measure of support than that expressed in the previous three years, through additional co-sponsorship of the resolution. This will demonstrate a larger measure of involvement of the UN membership on this vital issue.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.
Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/42 of 8 December 2003 and 59/80 of 3 December 2004,

Recognizing the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evident in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the growing risk of linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and in particular by the fact that terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction,

Taking note of Cognizant of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted on 28 April 2004,

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 13 April 2005,

Also welcoming the adoption, by consensus, of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material by the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 July 2005,

Noting the support expressed in the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 25 February 2003, and in the Final Document of the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Durban, South Africa, from 17 to 19 August 2004, for measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction,

Noting also that the Group of Eight, the European Union, the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others have taken into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, and the need for international cooperation in combating it,

Acknowledging the consideration of issues relating to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters,

Taking note of resolution GC(49)/RES/11, adopted on 24 September 2004, GC(49)/RES/10 on 30 September 2005 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-eighth ninth regular session,

Taking note also of the report of the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism,
Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 4 of resolution 44/4859/80,

Mindful of the urgent need for addressing, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this threat to humanity,

Emphasizing that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help to maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism,

1. Calls upon all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

2. Invites all Member States to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism to enable its early entry into force;

3. Urges all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture, and invites them to inform the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, of the measures taken in this regard;

4. Encourages cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, and to report to the General Assembly at its sixteenth sixty first session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixteenth sixty first session the item entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".