Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Committee and also congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation and support.

I thank the Secretary General for his annual Report A/64/161 on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 the General Assembly Resolution 50/53 on ”Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”. This Report contains important and valuable information about the measures taken at the national and international levels for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism as well as the workshops and training programs on combating crimes connected with international terrorism.

We would also like to thank Ambassador Rohan Perera for his Report on the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 and the Facilitator of the Working Group for their untiring efforts in resolving the outstanding issues. We assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation and support.

Mr. Chairman,
India attaches highest importance to the agenda item relating to “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism” presently under consideration before this Committee. Today terrorism continues to remain one of the major threats facing international community and the humankind as a whole. The international community needs to marshal all its resources to combat this scourge.

You are aware that India has been a victim of terrorism for decades. The horrific terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November last year were seen on live television by the whole world. These targeted common people, including foreigners, in one of the world’s largest metropolis. The people of India have continued to pay a heavy price in our fight against terrorism. We are determined to confront these challenges fully and decisively.

Mr. Chairman,

No cause could ever justify the indiscriminate killing of innocent peoples. The Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted by UNGA Resolution 49/60 condemns international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Declaration also unequivocally condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, whenever and by whomever.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism poses a grave threat to all States and all societies. It undermines peace, democracy and freedom thus endangering the very foundations of the continued existence of democratic societies. Terrorism is a global threat and requires a coordinated and concerted global response to combat it.

Mr. Chairman,

India has taken many steps in strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism. At the international level, India has become party to all 13 sectoral conventions on terrorism that have been adopted under the auspices of the United Nations. At the national level, India has taken many steps to strengthen international cooperation to combat international terrorism. We have entered into several bilateral treaties with other countries in the areas of combating terrorism, organized crime, money laundering, terrorist financing and illicit drug trafficking. At the same time we have also concluded with many countries treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to further strengthen and enhance international cooperation in this regard. These treaties also facilitate exchange of operational information and development of joint programs to combat money laundering, organized crime and terrorism. They also facilitate transfer of fugitive offenders and suspected
terrorists so that they can stand trial in the State in which the offence is committed. The treaties on mutual legal assistance assist in the prosecution of offences, location of fugitives, and transfer of witnesses and exhibits. A combined bilateral and multilateral treaty regime that we have in place in combating terrorism play a vital role in the punishment of crime and prosecution of offenders. In addition to having this treaty regime in place, we have also strengthened our legislation entitled Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 and have integrated in this a mechanism for the effective enforcement of the measures laid down by the 1267 Committee against designated individuals and entities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ad-Hoc Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, within the framework of the Sixth Committee, and this Working Group have been negotiating the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism for years. The Ad-Hoc Committee that met in June this year generated good momentum highlighting the urgent need for the adoption of the Draft CCIT this year itself. Reflecting on the general sense of the debate that time, the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee also advised delegations to come prepared to take necessary decisions for the finalization and adoption of the draft Convention during this session. During the General Debate in the 64th Session of the General Assembly last month, many States have reiterated their support for the successful and early conclusion of the draft CCIT.

We believe that we have already lost invaluable time in taking concrete decision on this issue and that the international community cannot afford to wait any longer at a time when there is the most urgent need to show solidarity and collective global action against international terrorism and to send a clear message to terrorists that international terrorism cannot be tolerated in any forms or manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

The negotiations over the years have by and large got a near full text of the proposed Convention with general agreement. There are just a few outstanding issues, on which too, there is ample agreed text from other processes in the UN, which can easily be incorporated to concretize the text for the CCIT. We, therefore, strongly urge that the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee now guide us quickly with a full text that can be recommended by us for adoption in this GA session itself. We would also urge
delegations to show flexibility so that the process can go ahead with the international community showing firm resolve to combat terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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