BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND CAIRMAN, COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE [CTC] ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON MAY 16, 2011

Mr. President,

I have the honour to assume the Chairmanship of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) from the beginning of this year. I would like to thank my distinguished predecessor Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan of Turkey for the excellent work in steering the Committee in 2010.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to brief the Council on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) since the last briefing in November, 2010.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is a global scourge and constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The United Nations strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever, and for whatever purposes. It is an attack on human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments. The CTC, in accordance with its mandate, continues to work actively in advancing the global fight against terrorism.
The Committee in its work has been guided by relevant Security Council resolutions including resolution 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and continues to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

The Security Council Presidential Statement adopted on May 2, 2011 in the aftermath of the death of Osama bin Laden stresses the need for full implementation of its resolutions on terrorism as well as other applicable international counter-terrorism instruments. It also calls on all States to work together to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of terrorist attacks while ensuring that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Important tools in the Committee’s work include Preliminary Implementation Assessments (PIA), visits to Member States, facilitating the provision of technical assistance, enhancing cooperation and coordination with international, regional and sub-regional organizations and identification and promotion of international best practices, codes and standards.

The Committee, through CTED, is also making use of alternative technologies, including video conferencing, to enhance its dialogue with Member States.

Mr. President,

The Committee continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic and regional issues. The major issues considered by the Committee include the control of cash couriers, abuse of non-profit sector for terrorist financing, and application of good practices for the implementation and assessment of resolution 1624 (2005). Important workshops organized during this period include the launch of CTED’s global initiative in London from January 18-20, 2011 to prevent the abuse of the non-profit sector for terrorist financing within the framework of the CTITF Working Group on Tackling the Financing of Terrorism and the workshop on challenges to effective border control in the Sahel and the Maghreb region, organized in close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania from April 4-6, 2011.

The Committee is also focusing on regional-specific discussions, on issues identified in the 2009 survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States (S/2009/620, annex). A regional discussion on Central Asia was held earlier this month.

In addition, the Committee and CTED continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity building.
Mr. President,

The Committee has adopted its work programme this year on an annual basis, which will be helpful in further streamlining the functioning of the Committee. Earlier, the Committee has been formulating its work programme on a biannual basis.


As part of enhancing its interaction with international and regional organizations and United Nations entities, the Committee has heard briefings on counter-terrorism in February this year by Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE, and Mr. Alexey Kuzyura, Head of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services of the Russian Federation.

Further, of particular significance is the CTC’s Special Meeting with international regional and sub-regional organizations on ‘Prevention of Terrorism’ held at Strasbourg, France from 19-21 April 2011 in collaboration with the Council of Europe. The Meeting offered an opportunity to the Committee, the CTED and various international, regional and sub-regional organizations to hold open and in-depth discussions about the preventive aspects of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Special Meeting focussed on three main areas viz. prevention policies, comprehensive and integrated strategies, and the role of law enforcement in preventing terrorism. Experts from civil society organizations also actively participated in the event. The Committee appreciates the close cooperation and generous support from the Council of Europe in planning and hosting this event. While the Committee and CTED will follow up on this important meeting, the Chair’s summary is in process of being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

This year marks an important milestone in the global counter-terrorism efforts as we approach the tenth anniversary of adoption of Resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee will organize a special meeting open to the wider membership and other relevant stakeholders, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption this resolution and the establishment of the Committee.

Other major upcoming events include a workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan for members of Parliament of Pakistan on strengthening the oversight role of the
Parliament in the implementation of AML/CFT laws, the fourth Regional Workshop for Police Officers and Prosecutors in South Asia on Effectively Countering Terrorism, to be held in Thimphu, Bhutan, and a workshop in Belgrade for countries from South East Europe on the law enforcement aspects of preventing the financing of terrorism.

Mr. President,

I attach high priority to enhance transparency, public outreach and strengthening cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. Besides participating in the CTC’s Special Meeting at Strasbourg last month, I also participated in the meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of the American States held in Washington in March, 2011.

In conclusion, the Committee will continue to play a critical role in the global fight against terrorism. The Committee will try to do so in a more strategic and transparent manner so that it can more effectively contribute to the global counterterrorism efforts within its mandate. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director, CTED and his team for their excellent work. I also wish to thank the Secretariat for its continuous support.

Thank you.

BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL