Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador H. E. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, PR of Bangladesh for his outstanding efforts in facilitating consultations on resolution on the second review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy that we are going to adopt later today. We also thank the Secretary General for his report contained in Doc A/64/818 on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the strategy, highlighting the efforts of the UN system in this regard.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is the most abhorrent and heinous crime against humanity as a whole. Indeed it is a scourge of our time. It continues to be a pervasive and insidious threat not only to global security but also to the core values of the United Nations. It is our firm conviction that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, as criminal and unjustifiable and therefore reiterate that no cause, no matter how seemingly just, can excuse terrorism. Being a victim of terrorism and worst sufferer for the last many decades, India has an abiding interest in greater and more meaningful international cooperation to counter and combat terrorism.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a landmark in the fight against terrorism. The four pillars of the strategy deal with the menace of terrorism in a balanced manner addressing all aspects – contributory as well as preventive.
The institutionalization of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in 2009 has contributed in strengthening UN efforts to counter terrorism by providing an umbrella under which different UN entities can effectively implement the Strategy in a coordinated and coherent manner. We are confident that the institutionalization of CTITF will streamline the overall work of the UN system in countering terrorism.

Since the primary responsibility for the implementation of the strategy rests with member States, we hope that this institutionalization process would also provide a useful platform for practical engagement of the CTITF with member states guided by their individual needs.

Mr. President,

The UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is a unique universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. The strategy is intended to play a pivotal role in guiding counter terrorism efforts undertaken at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy need to be implemented in an integrated manner in all its four pillars. The various UN and other specialized agencies have to ensure that counter terrorism approaches and measures cater to regional, national and international as well as functional specificities to facilitate multi-dimensional technical assistance needs. In this regard the CTITF has to play a crucial role in ensuring coordinated and coherent efforts across the UN system to counter terrorism.

Mr. President,

India has firmly put in place policy, strategic, administrative, operational and legal framework to implement the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in all its four pillars.

We are willing to share our experiences in the implementation of the Strategy and provide assistance bilaterally or multilaterally as necessary and needed in the larger efforts to counter the threat of terrorism at the global regional, sub-regional or national levels. We are also willing to share relevant information with competent UN agencies as and when the need arise.

Mr. President,

The second review resolution on the implementation of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is an important step forward. Stressing on the primary responsibility of States to implement the Strategy, it lays emphasis on the implementation of the
Strategy by the UN system in a coordinated and coherent manner and on the need to avoid duplication in efforts undertaken by various UN entities.

We are happy to see that the resolution encourages member states to get involved in the work of the CTITF not merely for receiving regular quarterly briefings from the task force on its work but also to provide CTITF with policy guidance and feedback on its work. This interactive mechanism would be immensely beneficial both for the member State as well as the UN system in their joint efforts to combat terrorism.

We are happy to note the plans of CTITF to bring its work to a wider audience through the development of a comprehensive web site. This is a significant effort as the work of the CTITF is not only relevant to member States and the UN entities but also for the civil society at large. Encouragement of member States in the work of CTITF will further add value to the legitimacy and credibility of UN efforts to counter terrorism.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General has very aptly pointed out in paragraph 139 of his report that 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.

I wish to reassure you that we will actively engage with CTITF and all relevant entities of the UN to effectively contribute to UN efforts in countering terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. President.