

**STATEMENT BY MR. AJIT KUMAR PANJA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 109(A))  
AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 57<sup>TH</sup> UNGA ON OCTOBER 31, 2002**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary General for the very useful reports on the agenda item under consideration. We note from the documents on the 'Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights' the efforts at improving the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies. This is indeed welcome, but would need to be approached in coordinated manner. In this connection, the report of the Secretary General on 'Strengthening the United Nations: on agenda for change' is also relevant. We thank the Secretary General for his proposals, on which member states are in the process of elucidating their views. In keeping with the tradition of the United Nations of adopting a consensual approach on matters of significance, it is our expectations that member states would find consensus on the best way to improve the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

The events of September 11, 2001 not only had the effect of bringing the horrors of terrorism into the forefront of our consciousness unfolding as it did, live on television screens in homes and it has also succeeded in bringing the debate on human rights into greater focus. This debate, as indeed does all debates, looks at diverse aspects of the situation existing today. It would be a great folly if in this debate we were to forget the basic rights of all human beings – the right to life. Other rights would hold little relevance when states fail to provide and protect its citizens of this fundamental rights. Let us not forget that we have in the Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights promised ourselves that.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and in Article 3 that.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. In our vigilance, let us not forget the human rights of the ordinary person, who is so often the unwilling victim.