

**STATEMENT BY MRS. MUKTA D. TOMAR, COUNSELLOR ON CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (AGENDA ITEM 100) INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
(AGENDA ITEM 101) AT THIRD COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 1, 2002**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

May I at the outset, on behalf of the delegation of India, take the opportunity to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the deliberations of the Committee.

We thank the Secretary General for the reports on the agenda items dealing with 'Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice' and 'International Drug Control', and the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, for his introductory statement.

One year after the dastardly acts of terrorism of September 11, 2001 the world view of crime and terrorism has undergone a major change. No longer is it a menace threatening some remote corner of the developing world, which some unfortunate nation must be left alone to deal with - it is now seen to be the global threat that my delegation has so many times reiterated at this very forum.

India has been in the forefront of the fight against terrorism for many years now. It is, therefore, heartening for us to see from the report of the Secretary General on strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat that the United Nations has long been seized of the issue of terrorism and has been addressing terrorism as a form of serious crime. This has included the setting up of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) in Vienna in 1997 to deal with a host of issues such as transnational organized crime, terrorism, illicit trafficking in and manufacturing of fire arms, illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse and money laundering. It is a matter of regret that inadequacy of mandate and financial support has stifled the

work that should have been undertaken by the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) these past years. We welcome the recommendations on the proposed expanded programme of work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, which will add to the means at our disposal to fight the international scourge of terrorism.

We welcome the commencement of the drafting of the draft Convention against corruption. We expect that a strong and deterrent Convention will provide additional capability in the international efforts at transparency in international transactions.

The report of the Secretary General on strengthening the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme was noteworthy for some significant achievements, in particular, the progress made in the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its protocols. Of particular value was the study conducted by an inter-governmental expert group on the illicit manufacturing, of and trafficking in, explosives by criminals which noted the serious threat this posed and the need for further discussions on this subject.

Mr. Chairman,

The 20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 1998 had been a significant success with the unanimous endorsement at the highest political levels of a consensus to act against the menace of drugs on the principles of shared responsibility and balanced approach, to drastically reduce production, trafficking, and abuse of illegal drugs by 2008. It is important that we translate our commitment into results, with an even greater degree of cooperation, including in the significant area of demand reduction.

The ODCCP, in its World Drug Report 2000 had estimated that about 180 million people world wide consumed illicit drugs. In its new report entitled 'Global Illicit Drug Trends 2002,' the UNDCP estimates that there are 185 million consumers of illicit drugs. This is alarming news, as greater international cooperation is expected to show better results, with a decline in the numbers of consumers instead of a rise in their numbers.

The successes achieved in addressing the multi-dimensional and multi-faceted problems of narco-terrorism are commendable, particularly in the efforts to reduce production and dismantle drug cartels. The successes are unfortunately offset by the challenges posed by a shift to the production of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and other synthetic drugs, the manufacturing locations of which are difficult to detect because of the ease of fabrication which has resulted in increases in production and distribution of ATS.

There is the need to look anew at measures which will effectively deal with the new and ever growing challenges. Loopholes in legislation to deal effectively with money-laundering, weaknesses in controls on the diversion of chemical precursors, the continued and increasing vulnerability of youth to ATS are just some of the challenges that need enhanced international efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, as the sinister truths behind the events of September 11 are revealed, what emerges clearly once more are the linkages among crime, terrorism and the illicit trade in narcotic drugs. We, the international community, need to work actively and closely to ensure that the children of tomorrow can live in a world free of these blights.

Thank You.

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