

Committee: United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee

Topic: Analyzing Resolution 1373 - Creating a Universal Definition for Terrorism

Country: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

September 28th, 2001 - Little more than a fortnight after one of the most devastating terrorist attacks in modern history, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 was passed and adopted unanimously; a move seen largely as a decisive course of action taken by the international community to work toward protecting the world from the horrors of terrorism. More than a decade later, the ideals and strategies laid down within that landmark resolution are the foundation for counter-terrorism legislation and conventions within the United Nations.

However, there remain striking absences of certain elements crucial to the proper interpretation and implementation of Resolution 1373 - namely, the absence of a comprehensive and universal definition of terrorism.

Even as of today, there remains no academic or legal consensus between nations as to a universally adoptable definition of terrorism, mainly due to the fact that it's often politically interpreted varyingly across the world. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan understands the dire need, in today's age, for a comprehensive and universal definition of terrorism. As a nation where terrorist attacks is an unfortunate reality of life, we're at the forefront of countries who are actively battling terrorism and our legislation and ratification of 11 of 13 UN Conventions on Terrorism is proof of our commitment to continue fighting the global war on terror.

However, our government has become aware of the danger that exists due to a lack of a comprehensive definition; the pejorative nature of the essence of the term has made it a tool for government antagonistic groups to use in reference to the acts of their opponents. As a government, our Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, is by far the most substantive legal response we have developed in our fastidious efforts to implement Resolution 1373 - in which, most importantly is our national legal definition of terrorism and its supporting terms. In respect to crafting an universal definition, our stance is most in line with our allies and members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, wherein, we have collectively made our contributions to the debate surrounding a comprehensive definition, during the deliberation period for the drafted Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The government of Pakistan would believe that it is in the committee's interest's to resurrect the long-shelved debate on the convention and re-open it for active discussion and subsequent recommendation to the UN Security Council for the purpose of adopting it uniformly across the UN and it's Member States. In conclusion, the delegate of Pakistan believes that the upcoming session would be most productive if the House would move in favour of constructive deliberation and debate upon the true essence of terrorism and its evolving nature by not only considering the reality of the current scenario but also drawing upon previous attempts at definition - all whilst demonstrating cohesion, cooperation and understanding between all members of this esteemed House.