Mr. Co-Chairman,

The September 2005 Summit condemned acts of terrorism committed wherever and by whomsoever. The Summit decided that elements of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy suggested by the Secretary-General would be endorsed by the General Assembly.

2. Although the General Assembly did not solicit a Report from the Secretary-General, we thank him for submitting this.

3. In the process of the Secretariat’s preparation of this Report, Pakistan submitted a paper outlining its views and comments on the elements of a Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I am circulating a copy of Pakistan’s paper along with this statement.

4. The Secretary-General’s Report focuses on the operational aspects of counter-terrorism and contains some important and some controversial proposals, on which we shall offer our comments. The report is focused, however, too heavily on actions to be taken by and within the UN system – it appears to be a strategy for the UN rather than Member States. The Report does not deal with the really important and difficult issues i.e. a clear definition of terrorism; the phenomenon of State Terrorism; and measures to address the underlying or root causes of Terrorism. Unless these are addressed, our Counter-Terrorism strategy will not be comprehensive; nor will the international community succeed in eliminating terrorism.

5. As the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia has informed the meeting, this Report was discussed extensively at a meeting of the Group of Friends of UN Reform in Cartagena on 5 and 6 May. The agreed conclusions of the Group have been circulated and, I believe, these will constitute an important contribution to this process of consultations designed to elaborate a comprehensive strategy.

6. As the Fox Group has stated the Secretary-General’s Report is to be welcomed “as a contribution to the discussion” of a global Counter-Terrorism strategy. While condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and ruling out any justification for terrorism, the Group has noted the necessity of