

**Statement by Ambassador Shamshad Ahmad, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations at the Public Meeting of the Security Council on the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) on 15 April 2002**

---

**Mr. President**

Once again we return to this Chamber to discuss the subject of terrorism and the response of the world community to counter it. The steps taken by the Security Council to combat this serious threat to international peace and security, which include the adoption of resolutions 1368, 1373, 1377 and 1390 as well as the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), are unprecedented in their approach and global in their scope. While these measures are indeed necessary and must be implemented, there is also a need to look beyond these immediate steps.

2. Terrorism is the curse of our time. It haunts all societies and regions. It stalks us all. As we seek to grapple with this challenge, our approach should not be cosmetic nor guided by emotion or anger. Surely the perpetrators of terrorism must be brought to justice. But our battle must not remain confined to retaliation and retribution alone. We must unearth the source of the problem and diagnose the disease beneath the skin. Sheer bandages will not heal the wounds that are rooted in the injustices of systems and societies. We must try to understand and grapple with the causes that force human beings to kill human beings. Why is humanity under assault? Why is humanity becoming devoid of humanity?

3. No matter what actions we might take against terrorism, this faceless enemy, which lurks in the shadows of fear and frustration, breeds on hatred and disillusionment and fed by ignorance and injustice will not disappear unless we seriously address what lies behind it. Terrorism will continue to haunt us until we treat its roots, which lie in the inequality of societies, in the exploitation of downtrodden, in the denial of fundamental rights and in the sense of injustice. It would be too simplistic to merely focus on the symptoms or their ugly manifestations.

**Mr. President,**

4. Terrorism, the anathema of this new century, has to be eliminated root and branch, in all its forms and manifestations. And, indeed terrorism has many forms and manifestations, which should also be included within the ambit of the Security Council resolutions and within the purview of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Those who employ the state apparatus to trample upon the fundamental and inalienable rights of people are also perpetrators of terrorism. If, as according to some, terrorism is defined by the act, not by the description of the perpetrators, then alien occupiers and usurpers, especially those who employ ruthless measures against people under occupation, also fit this definition.

**Mr. President,**

5. Pakistan rejects and condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We have never condoned acts of terrorism and have been cooperating with international community in combating this universal evil. We in Pakistan will continue to abide by our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations as well as those under the resolutions of the Security Council. President Musharraf has clearly pronounced our policy on this matter. In spite of the challenges faced by Pakistan, we are determined to do what is right and what is just.

**Mr. President,**

6. These are unusual times demanding exceptional responses. In effectively confronting the universal evil of terrorism, we cannot be oblivious of the need to address the source of this problem at its roots. It is time for courageous decisions, for correcting historical wrongs and

redressing endemic injustices. Our universal obligation to fight terrorism must not deflect us from the need for a just, lasting and honourable settlement of the Kashmir and Palestine issues. It is time for the Security Council to restore its credibility and legitimacy and work as a true instrument of peace and security as mandated by the UN Charter.

**Thank you, Mr. President**

New York  
15 April 2002