

STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN

In the Open meeting of the Security Council on Report by the chairman of the 1267 Sanctions Committee on 29 July 2003

Mr. President,

We would like to join others in extending a warm welcome to Ambassador Parry (UK) in our midst and look forward to working with him in the spirit of friendliness and traditional cooperation which characterizes our bilateral relations.

I also wish to thank Ambassador Munoz for his first briefing as the Chairman of the 1267 Sanctions Committee to the Security Council on the work of the Committee, the Monitoring Group and its future plans. We have full confidence in his leadership and capabilities and we wish him good luck for his term as chairman of the Committee.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the role the 1267 Sanctions Committee has been playing in the fight against terrorism. The consolidated list maintained by the Committee has been rightly described as the key tool in this regard. We have also noted efforts of the Committee to improve the content and format of the list.

As the Committee needs international cooperation to fulfill its mandated tasks, it is important that member states continue to extend to it their fullest cooperation. We believe the improved guidelines of the Committee would facilitate this process and encourage member states to comply with their obligations under UN Security Council resolutions. Committee's efforts to bring more transparency in its work would also be helpful in encouraging greater cooperation with the Committee.

Clarification of the roles of the 1267 Sanctions Committee and the Counter Terrorism Committee would remove confusion, if any, about the work the two committees perform. We also believe that this clarification would lead to a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the work of each committee.

We share the views of the Chairman about the role country reports play in the analysis of the Committee on how best to deal with the fight against terrorism. However, we need to address the factors which may lead to reporting fatigue and are responsible, at least in part, for a low response from member states to submit reports to the Committee.

I would also take this opportunity to appreciate the role the Monitoring Group has been playing in furthering the work of the Committee and in monitoring compliance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We hope that the recent addition of supporting staff to the Group would help improve its performance further. We hope that the Group would maintain and improve its analytical reporting to the Council.

Mr. President,

When it comes to terrorism, Pakistan speaks from its own experiences based on the sacrifices our citizens and law enforcement officials have made especially in the last two decades. Pakistan

has had to face a heavy price during this period for its principled position against terrorism and in support of the right of people for self determination.

But to the dismay of terrorists, these incidents have served to strengthen Pakistan's resolve to fight this menace with ever greater conviction and resolution. We have captured about five hundred al Qaida terrorists since 9/11. Our message to the terrorists and their supporters is clear and unequivocal: We can not be cowed down by acts or threats of terrorism and that we continue to stand undeterred in the face of terrorism.

Mr. President,

Terrorism has become the bane of all countries alike. It is no longer a localized problem which could be solved through domestic actions alone. The modern manifestations of terrorism endanger peace and security of the entire world. The measures to combat this problem, should therefore, be based on international cooperation and coordination.

As we proceed with the fight against terrorism, it becomes increasingly clear that we would need long term solutions to address this problem. We will have to move beyond administrative and legal responses. At the policy level, the international community would need to pay greater attention to factors which lie at the root of most cases of terrorism. There is a certain correlation between poverty, religious and political persecution and injustice and terrorism.

Our policy response to terrorism should be broad and multifaceted, not limited only to administrative, legislative or legal measures but should also encompass measures that address factors which are partly, if not fully, responsible for its growth. It may not be possible to vouchsafe for the elimination of all acts of terrorism through those policy measures. But at least, through these measures, we would have deprived many potential terrorists of causes or justifications for resorting to terrorism.

As noted at the Open meeting of the Security Council on 23 July, the emotional impact of events of 9/11 is now decreasing. It is therefore, important that we sustain our fight along lines which ensure maximum cooperation of all states as it is no longer a concern of a few states but of the whole humanity.

Mr. President,

A legal definition of terrorism is necessary to prevent its abuse by certain states who visit all kinds of hardships on innocent civilians all in the name of fighting terrorism. Unless we control our actions by subjecting it to the limitation of a legal definition and a political commitment to addressing this problem in its entirety, it would not be possible to avoid abuse of human rights, denial of right of self determination or prevention of state terrorism. Securing consensus for a definition of terrorism might be difficult, but is not impossible.

We need to re prioritize our goals in the fight against terrorism to ensure we continue to be on track and do not lose sight of our long term objective of ensuring and maintaining international peace and security.

I thank you Mr. President.