

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

We thank the Secretary-General for his annual report on the work of the Organization. We are fortunate that today's meeting is taking place shortly after the high-level general debate, during which our leaders addressed the General Assembly. We therefore have not only the report's perspective but also our leaders' views to help us in our meeting today.

Before going into some aspects of the Secretary-General's report, it is worth noting that in paragraph 4 it itemizes as many as 13 specific areas of conflict or crisis that currently scar the international landscape, along with emerging new threats that terrorist groups pose to international peace and security. The cumulative impact of those conflicts and crises is being felt by almost 60 million people — innocent men, women and children. Yet section B of chapter II of the report is strangely silent on why the Security Council, which is serviced by the Secretariat and has primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, has allowed such a mushrooming of crises to occur.

My delegation has repeatedly stated at the highest level that the Security Council's ineffectiveness is due to its unrepresentative composition, particularly its permanent membership. We were all party to our leaders' unanimous decision at the 2005 World Summit to work for speedy reform of the Council to make it fit for purpose. Paragraph 102 of the report tries to reflect the significant progress we made in the

Assembly on 14 September but buries this in business-as-usual statistics.

The context for our deep concern about the steady erosion of international peace and security is our leaders' recent adoption of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report gives many details about the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and their integration into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. We have expressed our support for the Secretary-General's vision in those parts of the report, including in the area of climate change. For many of the SDGs we have just adopted, India has announced national development initiatives with specific time frames for implementation.

We would like our national effort, involving almost one sixth of humankind, to help to accelerate and lead the way to achievement of the 2030 Agenda in a substantive manner. However, we are also cognizant of the importance of the interlinkage and impact of a supportive and stable political environment for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is self-evident that political instability is an obstacle to the flow of investments, technology and trade, and consequently it severely restricts prospects for sustained socioeconomic growth. In a globalized world, our overarching objective of eradicating poverty by 2030 from our planet will be jeopardized unless we adopt a holistic approach.

We would like to touch on three issues covered by the report. The first is on UN peace operations. The report provides a detailed account of the attempts made by the Security Council to draw up mandates for both peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. These two have been

synergized in the public mind through the Secretary-General's appointment of a High-level Panel known as HIPPO. We have endorsed the Panel's recommendations in the General Assembly and look forward to contributing to implementing these during this session, especially in the C34 Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. India has committed significant additional resources, including an increase of 10 per cent of our existing contribution of almost 8,000 troops and the provision of additional female peacekeepers, highly skilled enablers and facilities for training peacekeepers from other Member States in order to implement the Panel's recommendations.

The second issue is terrorism. This is an issue on which the United Nations has appeared ineffective, though both the Security Council and the General Assembly have adopted resolutions, sanctions regimes and strategies to counter terrorism over the past 15 years. As far as the Organization itself is concerned, we note that as many as 31 entities within the United Nations deal with some aspect of countering terrorism. The need for us to agree on a coordinator for the work of these entities is a priority that we cannot postpone. Our public consciousness is being ravaged daily by incessant acts of terrorism targeting innocent people, our civilizational heritage and, increasingly, our societies' socioeconomic infrastructure of our societies, especially in vulnerable developing countries. We look forward to the Secretary-General's initiative on countering terrorism, mentioned in paragraph 96 of the report, during this session of the Assembly. We hope this initiative will include a road map to help us to adopt the long-pending comprehensive convention on international terrorism, at the heart of which is the legal principle of "prosecute or extradite".

The third issue that we would like to comment on is reflected in section C of the report, on Africa. India is organizing the third India-Africa Forum Summit, starting on 26 October this year, with plans for all 54 African countries to participate. It will be the single biggest diplomatic event held in India since 1983. We aim to build on the bonds of our traditional political and socioeconomic relations with Africa and take advantage of new technologies that can enable us to accelerate our efforts to achieve our shared development aspirations. The success of the Pan-African E-network project, with a focus on telemedicine and tele-education, is a good example of how we can contribute, as a responsible Member State, to our Organization's commitment to Africa's rapid development.

India has steadily increased its active participation in issues on the Organization's humanitarian agenda in order to become a reliable early responder to humanitarian crises. During the past year, in response to the Secretary-General's appeal, we were the biggest financial contributor among developing countries to the Ebola trust fund. Similarly, at the international donor conference in Kathmandu, we made significant contributions to the early relief and rehabilitation of the thousands of victims of the devastating earthquake in Nepal. We have contributed quickly to relief for devastation caused by cyclones and storms in both the Pacific and the Caribbean. Through our participation in South-South cooperation structures such as the India Brazil South Africa Fund, we have shared our development experience with our partners in the developing world, without making the partnership conditional or prescriptive.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I find it most unfortunate that my colleague from Pakistan has chosen to refer to issues that are

extraneous to the debate we are having here today. We have diplomatic relations with Pakistan, and such issues should be addressed within the framework of those relations, instead of being aired elsewhere.

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