

Statement by Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Reflect on History, Reaffirm the Strong Commitment to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations” on 23rd February 2015.

Thank you for giving me the floor. We appreciate the briefing given to us today by the distinguished Secretary General. We encourage him to elaborate this into a Report on the Situation in the World to be presented by him to our leaders during this year’s 70th Anniversary Summit of the United Nations.

2. We acknowledge the very useful Concept Note circulated by your delegation for today’s open debate.

3. The Security Council has taken the lead in referring to the purposes and principles of the Charter while attempting to maintain international peace and security. It is a matter of concern for us, who are not privileged to sit permanently in the Council, that the Council’s invocation of these purposes and principles appear selective, to suit the national interests of powerful member states. The Council’s decisions on issues not directly linked with maintaining international peace and security cannot encroach upon the jurisdiction of the General Assembly, where all of us are equally represented.

4. Secondly, we endorse tackling global challenges together in a cooperative manner, especially to implement our developmental agenda. The very nature of these challenges, which are increasingly trans-boundary in nature, requires concerted action. Terrorism is a good topical example. It directly threatens development, especially in many developing countries. However, concerted action by the Council to implement its landmark decisions, including UNSCR 1373 which imposes counter terrorism obligations on all member states, is absent. Counter-terrorism sanctions regimes, especially those of UNSCR 1267, are administered ambivalently and opaquely by the Council. The listing of the perpetrators of the most heinous of terrorist crimes is subject to whims of powerful member states. Even brazen public violations of the sanctions regime by listed individuals and entities, far from attracting punitive measures, do not even elicit the mildest censure of the Council. This inaction is a serious deviation from the responsibilities given to the Council by the Charter, with dangerous consequences.

5. Third, we are glad to see the Note acknowledge the need to take into account views of troop contributing countries while formulating peacekeeping mandates. We deeply regret that the Council has so far repeatedly violated, and in fact diluted, the clear provisions of Article 44 of the Charter, which explicitly requires the Council to invite member states contributing troops, who are not members of the Council, to

participate in the decisions of the Council. This has seriously compromised the objectives of peacekeeping.

6. Fourth, we endorse the call to give priority to the peaceful settlement of disputes, using the provisions of Chapter VI of the UN Charter. The festering situations in Africa, West Asia and lately Europe, are vivid illustrations of the Council's inability or disinclination to use these provisions. We are convinced that only through an inclusive political dialogue process can any lasting peace and security can be sustained. The Council must invest more time, energy and resources on implementing Chapter VI of the Charter.

7. Finally, it is ironical that calls for democracy and the rule of law are being made in a Council that itself embodies the undemocratic stranglehold of the privileges of a few, forged by a wartime alliance that no longer exists. The logic of democracy, and the anguished faces of human suffering across the world, call for urgent action to reform the Council. We must do so this year if we are to learn the right lessons from history.

Thank you.