

NAM document opposes terrorism in all forms

The 118-nation Non-aligned Movement (NAM) has expressed its total opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and asked countries to combat the menace, including by prosecuting and extraditing its perpetrators.

Burning midnight oil and bringing to an end months of negotiations, the two-day NAM summit adopted the Havana Declaration and the 'Final Document' in the early hours of September 17, urging countries to refrain from extending political, diplomatic, moral or material support to terrorism under the U.N. Charter and also asking them to fulfil global obligations not to give it any support.

The conference condemned unilateralism and attempts to exercise hegemonic domination in international relation.

It resolved to oppose and condemn the categorisation of countries as "good or evil" based on unilateral and unjustified criteria and the adoption of a doctrine of pre-emptive attack, including by nuclear weapons.

The 91-page 'Final Document' expressed deep concern that the terrorist groups, including former Taliban, were regrouping in the southern and eastern parts of Afghanistan. Equally of concern was that the efforts of international community to fight terrorism were being undermined by support, protection and shelter that these forces of destabilisation continued to receive, it said.

Though the document did not take the name of any country.

India's campaign for reform of the United Nations, especially the Security Council,

found support when the declaration and the document expressed concern over the lack of progress in the discussions in the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the council. It called for efforts to make the council more democratic, more representative, more accountable and more effective.

Taking on board concerns of countries such as India on the issue of terrorism, the document said criminal acts intended or cal-

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culated to provoke a state of terror among the people "for whatever purposes, wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed are, in any circumstance, unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them".

It asked the countries to fulfil their obligations under international and humanitarian law to combat terrorism, including by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts and by not instigating or financing terror acts against other states.

The document called for the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism.

The summit opposed unilateralism in international relations as well as unilaterally imposed measures by certain states and the use of force and pressure to achieve their national policy objectives.

The summit reaffirmed the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

It noted with concern that undue restrictions on export to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist. The proliferation concerns must be addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreement.

On North-South dialogue and cooperation, the summit acknowledged the need for interaction among the leaders of the developing world for forging compatible or complementary responses on global issues for a greater action.

On Iran, the conference said diplomacy and dialogue through peaceful means must continue to find a long-term solution, and expressed conviction that the only way to resolve the issue would be to resume negotiations without any preconditions.

It also adopted a declaration on Palestine and called on four countries involved in mediation to remain actively engaged in the Palestinian and Israeli side to bring about resumption of direct and substantial negotiations. ■

Prime Minister calls for a 'confluence of civilisations'

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"A message must emanate from us that we are united in our desire and determination to fight and eliminate the scourge of terrorism. We cannot allow the forces of intolerance and of extremism to distract the world's attention from the vital concerns of our people - the problems of mass poverty, ignorance and disease which still afflicts millions and millions of people in developed world."

The Prime Minister called for the setting up a high-level group for West Asia - recently witness to a "tragic and pointless war in Lebanon" - so as to "undertake a sustained mission to promote understanding in the region and assist in the implementation of



Prime Minister Manmohan with Cuban Minister of Higher Education, Juan Velaon his arrival at Havana's airport on Sept. 14.

the agreed roadmap towards a comprehensive and durable peace".

Manmohan Singh also touched upon the need for nuclear disarmament, saying that India has prepared a Working Paper on the subject that will be circulated as a document at the UNGA Session this year.

He also urged NAM to "take the lead in articulating a new paradigm of energy security", one that addresses the needs of all peoples and the planet.

The Prime Minister said India proposes the establishment of a NAM working group on energy security to draw up a NAM Action Plan for Energy Security to address the energy challenges of the future. He said India would be prepared to coordinate such a group. ■