

Need to stamp out terrorism: Minister

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Doha: India yesterday called on the United Nations to urgently adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism which has been pending at the world body for long. The Minister of State for External Affairs, E Ahmed, told an ongoing UN Conference on Financing Development here that the 'dastardly attack on Mumbai' was well-orchestrated and well-planned'.

He urged the conference to 'send out a strong message that not only the perpetrators but also the organisers, financiers and supporters of terrorism are brought to justice urgently'. "We are grateful for the words of sympathy and solidarity that many of you have expressed for my country in the wake of the dastardly attack on Mumbai," Ahmed said as UN delegates listened intently. "We would also urge an urgent adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism which has been pending for long at the UN."

According to the Minister, stamping out terrorism was also essential for social cohesion and safety and security for all societies. "These are, in fact, essential preconditions for development."

Talking of world financial turmoil, the Indian Minister said although the developing countries were not to blame for it, many of them had become its victims. The choking of normal credit will lead to lower capital flows and foreign direct investment (FDI) to developing nations. Their export abilities will also be hit.

Much of the world's growth over the past several years has been due to growth in the developing world, so any slowdown would have serious repercussions for the world economy.

Ahmed said that if a slide-back was to be prevented and it was to be ensured that Millennium Development Goals were achieved by the developing nations, the industrialised countries will have to see that FDI, trade and infrastructure development in developing nations did not slow down.

"Investment in infrastructure is today, perhaps, the best signal for reviving private investment, including FDI, tomorrow, is what Premier Manmohan Singh recently noted."

The World Bank, International Finance Corporation and regional development banks have a special role to play in this, said Ahamed.



The Indian Minister of State for External Affairs
E Ahmed at the conference.