

others are mired in conflicts. In Asia, the absence of an agreed security architecture creates uncertainty. Threats of terror are expanding, and new challenges are emerging in cyber and outer space.

And global institutions conceived in the 20th century seem unable to cope with new challenges or take on new responsibilities. In this world full of multiple transitions and economic opportunities, growing uncertainties and political complexities, existing threats and new challenges, our engagement can make a difference by promoting: cooperation, not dominance; connectivity, not isolation; inclusive, not exclusive, mechanisms; respect for global commons; and, above all, adherence to international rules and norms.

India is already assuming her responsibilities in securing the Indian Ocean region. A strong India-U.S. partnership can anchor peace, prosperity, and stability from Asia to Africa and from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. It can also help ensure security of the sea lanes of commerce and freedom of navigation on the seas. But the effectiveness of our cooperation would increase if international institutions, framed with the mind-set of the 20th century, were to reflect the realities of today.

Mr. Speaker, before arriving in Washington, D.C., I had visited Herat, in western Afghanistan, to inaugurate the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, built with Indian assistance. I was also there on Christmas Day last year to dedicate to that proud nation its Parliament, a testimony to our democratic ties.

Afghans naturally recognize that the sacrifices of Americans have helped create a better life, but your contribution in keeping the region safe and secure is deeply appreciated even beyond.

India, too, has made an enormous contribution and sacrifices to support our friendship with the Afghan people. A commitment to rebuild a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan is our shared objective.

Yet, distinguished Members, not just in Afghanistan, but elsewhere in south Asia and globally, terrorism remains the biggest threat. In the territory stretching from west of India's border to Africa, it may go by different names, from Lashkar-e-Taiba, to Taliban, to ISIS, but its philosophy is common: of hate, murder, and violence. Although, its shadow is spreading across the world, it is incubated in India's neighborhood.

I commend the Members of the U.S. Congress for sending a clear message to those who preach and practice terrorism for political gains. Refusing to reward them is the first step towards holding them accountable for their actions.

The fight against terrorism has to be fought at many levels, and the traditional tools of military, intelligence, or diplomacy alone would not be able to win this fight.

Mr. Speaker, we have both lost civilians and soldiers in combating terrorism. The need of the hour is for us to deepen our security cooperation and base it on a policy that isolates those who harbor, support, and sponsor terrorists; that does not distinguish between "good" and "bad" terrorists; and that delinks religion from terrorism.

Also, for us to succeed, those who believe in humanity must come together to fight for it as one, and speak against this menace in one voice. Terrorism must be delegitimized.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of our partnership extend not just to the nations and regions that need it most. On our own, and by combining our capacities, we are also responding to other global challenges, including when disaster strikes and where humanitarian relief is needed. Far from our shores, we evacuated thousands from Yemen—Indians, Americans, and others. Nearer home, we were the first responders during Nepal's earthquake, in the Maldives water crisis, and, most recently, during the landslide in Sri Lanka.

We are also one of the largest contributors of troops to U.N. peace-keeping operations. Often, India and the U.S. have combined their strengths in science, technology, and innovation to help fight hunger, poverty, diseases, and illiteracy in different parts of the world. The success of our partnership is also opening up new opportunities for learning, security, and development from Asia to Africa.

And the protection of the environment and caring for the planet is central to our shared vision of a just world. For us in India, to live in harmony with Mother Earth is part of our ancient belief, and to take from nature only what is most essential is part of our Indian culture.

Our partnership, therefore, aims to balance responsibilities with capabilities, and it also focuses on new ways to increase the availability and use of renewable energy.

A strong U.S. support for our initiative to form an International Solar Alliance is one such effort. We are working together not just for a better future for ourselves, but for the whole world. This has also been the goal of our efforts in G20, East Asia Summit, and climate change summits.

Mr. Speaker, as we deepen our partnership, there would be times when we would have differing perspectives; but since our interests and concerns converge, the autonomy in decisionmaking and diversity in our perspectives can only add value to our partnership.

So, as we embark on a new journey and seek new goals, let us focus not just on matters routine, but also transformational ideas, ideas which can focus not just on creating wealth, but also creating value for our societies; not just on immediate gains, but also long-term benefits; not just on sharing

best practices, but also shaping partnerships; and not just on building a bright future for our peoples, but in being a bridge to a more united, humane, and prosperous world.

And important for the success of this journey would be a need to view it with new eyes and new sensitivities. When we do this, we will realize the full promise of this extraordinary relationship.

Mr. Speaker, in my final thoughts and words, let me emphasize that our relationship is primed for a momentous future. The constraints of the past are behind us, and foundations of the future are firmly in place.

In the lines of Walt Whitman: "The orchestra have sufficiently tuned their instruments; the baton has given the signal." And to that, if I might add, there is a new symphony in play.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, and distinguished Members, for this honor.

Thank you very much.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m., His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.