

Translated from Arabic

Summary of the most important efforts made by the League of Arab States to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction

- On 28 March 2010, a meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States was held at the summit level in Sirte, Libya. A declaration was issued in which the League affirmed that the Arab States, which are all parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), requested the international community to take immediate action to rid the world of nuclear weapons, and stressed the need to translate international initiatives that called for the world to be rid of such weapons into practical plans with strictly defined and binding timetables. It underlined the fact that if progress is to be made towards that goal, the first step must be to achieve the universality of NPT. The Sirte declaration also stressed the importance of respect for the legitimate right of States parties to the Treaty to possess and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and rejected the use of any pretext in order to circumscribe that right.
- The Sirte declaration warned that Israel's stubborn refusal to become a party to NPT and place its nuclear installations under the International Atomic Energy Agency system of comprehensive safeguards would increase the fragility of the security and stability of the region and prompt an arms race that would have dire consequences.
- On 28 March 2010, the Council of the League at the summit level adopted resolution No. 525 concerning international terrorism and means of suppressing it. In the resolution, the Council called for continuing cooperation and dialogue with the Security Council counter-terrorism committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).
- On 19 November 2009, the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice, at its twenty-fifth meeting, adopted resolution 788 concerning the strengthening of the existing cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism between the technical secretariat of the Council and regional and international organizations and, in particular, the counter-terrorism committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- The Department of Legal Affairs of the League of Arab States (technical secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice) organized a workshop that was held on 20 and 21 October 2009 at League headquarters in Cairo. The workshop concerned ways of preventing terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction and was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs and Defence of 17 Arab countries. Also present were participants from the general secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and experts from the Syrian Arab Republic and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, which pertains to the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and has its headquarters in Riyadh. Representatives of the Security Council

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the European Commission also attended (report and recommendations annexed).

- During the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) that was held in New York from 30 September to 2 October 2009, the Legal Advisor of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States gave a presentation on efforts made by the League of Arab States to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction.
 - The Department of Legal Affairs of the League of Arab States took part in the regional workshop on the preparation of reports and responses for submission to the three Security Council counter-terrorism committees that was held in Abu Dhabi from 28 to 30 June 2009; and in the regional workshop on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and future challenges in the Gulf region that was held in Abu Dhabi on 5 and 6 October 2009.
 - Pursuant to the resolution adopted on 19 November 2009 by the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice at its twenty-fifth session, whereby the technical secretariat of the Council (the Department of Legal Affairs of the League of Arab States) and the Arab Centre for Legal and Judicial Research, Beirut, were instructed to follow up ways of strengthening cooperation in the fields of crime and criminal justice with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in Italy, consultations with the Institute are currently taking place with a view to establishing a project for the suppression of illicit trade in chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear materials and arms in the Middle East and North Africa.
 - The League of Arab States continues to invite member States to provide it with reports on the measures that have been taken to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction or the components thereof, pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions. To date, the general secretariat has received updated reports and responses from 17 Arab States, which have been transmitted to the relevant bodies in the United Nations.
 - Model Arab laws and agreements have included a number of articles that aim to limit the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent terrorists from obtaining such weapons. Such agreements include the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, the Unified Arab Penal Code and the Arab model law for the suppression of information technology crime.
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