

Translated from Russian

General Assembly resolution 63/60, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction"

Ukraine, like all civilized countries, is well aware of the risk of terrorist organizations using weapons of mass destruction and pays constant attention to the issue of preventing terrorists from acquiring components of such weapons in the territory of Ukraine.

During the implementation of activities to combat international terrorism, the relevant State authorities of Ukraine, in strict adherence to existing national legislation and international regulations, continuously monitor the status of international terrorism and trends in its proliferation while also assessing potential and real threats to the national security of Ukraine.

With a view to implementing and strengthening national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and technologies related to their manufacture, the relevant State authorities of Ukraine are taking the following steps:

Monitoring the activities of terrorist and extremist organizations (groups) and their intentions and capabilities to carry out terrorist acts using weapons of mass destruction or the individual components of such weapons;

Monitoring and intercepting the activities of terrorist and extremist organizations (groups) engaged in the pursuit of individual components of weapons of mass destruction and the technology for their manufacture;

Identifying and blocking potential flows of illegal weapons and dual-use items to organizations and groups whose activities are violent in nature;

Informing the State authorities of Ukraine about the activities, plans and intentions of terrorist and extremist organizations (groups); and,

Exchanging information with the special services of foreign States, particularly the States participating in the international coalition against terrorism, regarding threats arising from the activities, plans and intentions of terrorist and extremist organizations (groups).

The current export control system in Ukraine is an important part of the efforts to prevent any arms, including weapons of mass destruction, from falling into the hands of terrorists or terrorist groups. Under the system, Ukraine maintains stringent controls on the export of weapons, military equipment and dual-use items.

Appropriate amendments were made to the national legislation of Ukraine in 2008 in order to improve the State export control system.

In addition, a Presidential Decree of 23 April 2008 approved the "National Counter-Terrorism Programme for 2008", which identifies priority areas for improving the State-wide counter-terrorism system. The programme also reflects the issue of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

In order to improve the effectiveness of cooperation with international organizations on counter-terrorism activities, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Decision No. 566-8 of 25 June 2008 amending the regulation on the operational headquarters for managing counter-terrorist operations. This regulation provides for representatives of foreign States to be included in the work of the operational headquarters in the event of a real terrorist threat or act against diplomatic, consular or other representative offices of foreign States in the territory of Ukraine.

An international seminar entitled "Legal assistance to improve the system for the prosecution of nuclear smuggling" was held in Ukraine in 2008, with the participation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in order to exchange experiences in this area. The issue of strengthening criminal prosecution for the smuggling of nuclear materials and radioactive substances was considered at the seminar.

In order to verify and increase the level of preparedness of the relevant national structures involved in counter-terrorism operations, counter-terrorism exercises were organized and conducted with the participation of foreign specialists and observers at particularly important facilities vulnerable to terrorism and at targets of potential terrorist attacks. One of the purposes of these exercises was to increase the level of

protection of technologically hazardous facilities and to counter illicit trafficking in substances that could be used in an attack as weapons of mass destruction.

To date, no attempt by terrorist organizations to acquire components of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery has been identified in Ukraine. However, in view of the presence in the territory of Ukraine of a large number of particularly hazardous facilities, including nuclear facilities which could be used by terrorists for their own purposes - specifically, for the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction components - Ukraine has an obligation to pay increased attention to security issues in this area.

Accordingly, eight articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine criminalize the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and illicit trafficking in hazardous nuclear, chemical and biological materials.

To increase the effectiveness of national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, Ukraine has drawn up a draft national plan of activities to fulfil the commitments and implement the measures undertaken within the framework of Ukraine's participation in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism for 2009-2010. Ukraine is also continuing to develop a design basis threat for nuclear facilities, nuclear materials, radioactive waste and other sources of ionizing radiation.

Ukraine believes that it is appropriate to deepen cooperation with the counterpart special services and law enforcement agencies of other States, primarily those participating in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, by sharing information on the possible ambitions of religious extremist and terrorist organizations to gain access to radioactive, biological and chemical materials, nuclear facilities and technologies for manufacturing weapons of mass destruction, and by conducting joint activities in these areas.
