



Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

“What I see here today is a recognition that we are all in this fight together. What I see here today is the start of a new era in counter-terrorism cooperation. States recognize that they cannot go it alone”. These were the words of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Symposium held on 19 September in New York.

The Secretary-General was addressing more than 500 dignitaries drawn from around the world to the first high-level counter-terrorism event to be held at the United Nations. “Let us, together, explore how to deepen our engagement. Let us chart a course that reflects our determination to defeat

terrorism and build a safer, more just and peaceful world for all”, he added.

The Secretary-General's sentiments were echoed by General Assembly President Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser who also hailed the force of collective efforts. “We must take joint initiatives, share information, participate in collective threat assessments and provide much needed assistance wherever required, to enable our nations to stand strong and united”, he said.

The Symposium was organized by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)

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Office with support from CTITF entities. The Symposium was organized to garner greater political support and strengthen cooperation in four key thematic areas: dialogue, understanding and countering the appeal of terrorism; regional cooperation; law enforcement and capacity-building; and human rights and the rule of law.

Addressing the Symposium, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, called on Member States to adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism which addresses, inter alia, state-sponsored terrorism. “The definition of terrorism should be crafted in such a way that no terrorist activities, whether sponsored by a state or a non-state actor, are spared”, she said.

“We must take joint initiatives, share information, participate in collective threat assessments and provide much needed assistance wherever required, to enable our nations to stand strong and united.”

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, cautioned against branding terrorism with a particular religion. “The religion that the terrorists profess should not be accused of terrorism. There are more than a billion Muslims in different parts of the world who represent an age-old culture that calls for peace, cooperation and tolerance”.

Trinidad Jimenez, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, touched on the need for a balanced and comprehensive counter-terrorism approach that addresses conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. “We should not



forget that in terrorism, ideological factors of organized crime, of non-resolved conflicts, of exclusion and social marginalization or of lack of peaceful integration of local communities usually come together. Because of that, the response besides the clearly needed police and judicial activities should also frequently include a development component as a preventive measure”.

Striking the balance between counter-terrorism actions and respect for human rights has been a struggle for many governments and Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation noted that “unlimited repression, even in the context of combating terrorism, is often a cause of the evil which it is intended to fight”, she said.

Her remarks were echoed by Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Kamel Amr, who called for creation of rehabilitation institutions for former terrorists to prevent possible relapse. “To combat terrorism effectively, we should create necessary institutions that rehabilitate convicted terrorists and ensure their smooth transition back into society”.

As terrorism keeps evolving, Indonesia’s Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa urged the international community to be more innovative to stay ahead of the curve. “The threat of terrorism is still mounting; terrorists can strike anywhere and any time, and the global nature of this challenge has not changed. We must deter, frustrate and put out of commission every terrorist cell and operative that we discover”, he added.

Mr. Alain Juppé, French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, suggested that more efforts should be directed at “fighting against the spread of arms, strengthening the capacity of the most fragile states and increasing efforts in the fight against situations that might be exploited by terrorist movements”.

Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States, added “in strengthening this international framework and in winning this fight, every country represented here has an essential role to play as a partner, as a convener and as a direct provider of assistance, intelligence and expertise to all those who seek to prevent terrorism from occurring and just as importantly endeavour to eliminate its causes as well”.



While chairing symposium sessions, Heads of CTITF entities commented on their respective subjects. Irina Bokova UNESCO Director-General underscored the imperative of preventing radicalism and extremist violence through dialogue, education, and respect for human rights. Mike Smith, CTED Executive Director, said law enforcement and capacity building involved passage of legislation to strengthen different arms of law enforcement, enhanced police training, deployment of sophisticated technology, strengthening of criminal justice systems, tackling terrorist financing,

strengthening border management and etc. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, urged the global community to consolidate its resources and move in one direction if terrorism was to be defeated. Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights touched on the importance of providing support to victims of terrorism to alleviate their suffering.

The eminent speakers also included Ms. Roza Otunbaeva, President of Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Phandu T. C. Skelemani, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Botswana; Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister for Foreign

“Every country represented here has an essential role to play as a partner, as a convener and as a direct provider of assistance, intelligence and expertise to all those who seek to prevent terrorism.”

Affairs of Norway; The Rt. Hon. Ms. Theresa May MP, Home Secretary of the United Kingdom; Mr. Taïeb Fassi-Fihri, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco; Mr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, Organization of American States; Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General, Organization of Islamic Cooperation; Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security for the African Union; Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan; Mr. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy; Mr. Olugbenga Ashiru, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria; Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey; Mr. Gennadiy M. Gatilov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. ■



Outcome of the Secretary-General's Symposium

The Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation concluded with a summary of the Chairman highlighting key elements extracted from the proceedings.

CTITF Chairman Robert Orr presided over the concluding session of the Symposium in which Catherine Ashton, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; Héctor Marcos Timerman, Foreign Minister of Argentina; and Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, commented on the way forward to promote international cooperation.

GLOBAL STRATEGY

The Symposium fully endorsed the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as the appropriate framework for any effective and collective response to the threat of terrorism and called for an integrated implementation of the Strategy.

While highlighting the growing need to build a culture of dialogue and understanding at all levels to prevent terrorism and counter its appeal for potential recruits, participants emphasized that the scourge of terrorism should not be associated with

any religion, ethnicity or nationality. The role of the media, faith leaders and civil society organizations were cited as vital elements to carry out this function.

Efforts made by many states and organizations in promoting de-



Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy



CTITF Chairman, Robert Orr addressing the Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

radicalization and counter-radicalization programmes, as well as other ways to counter the appeal of terrorism, were noted. The use of mass media for the development and propagation of counter-narratives as a response to the fallacious rhetoric of terrorists was encouraged.

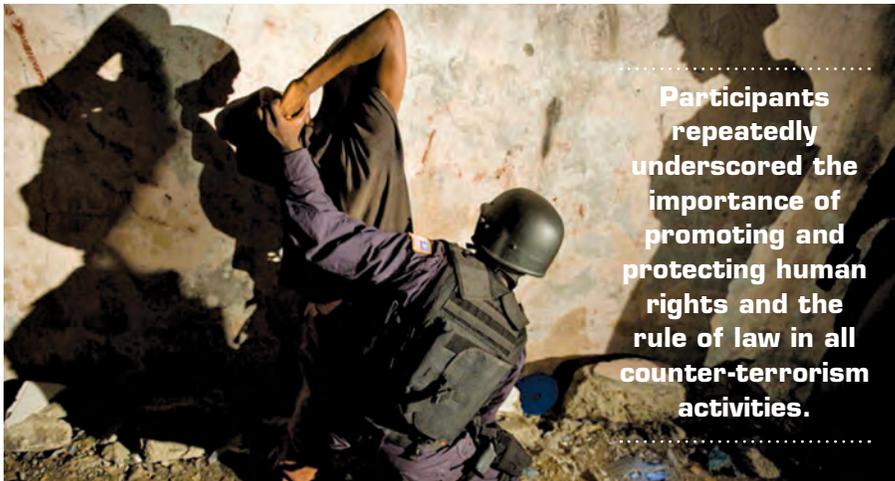
Participants underlined the important role of law enforcement agencies in combating terrorism in key areas, including the capturing of terrorist suspects and investigating their crimes, analysing their methodologies and typologies, and protecting critical infrastructure and vulnerable targets. The linkages between organized criminal activities and terrorism were also highlighted. Some participants paid

particular attention to the need for dedicated counter-terrorism units in national counter-terrorism frameworks.

They also discussed the challenges faced in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy due to capacity constraints, institutional shortfalls and gaps in domestic inter-agency coordination and called for greater technical assistance. Capacity-building, including on addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, was stressed by participants as a pivotal element in advancing the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Practical responses to address law enforcement and criminal justice policy and capacity shortfalls and to counter terrorist propaganda are needed.

Many participants welcomed the creation of the United Nations Centre on Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT) in the CTITF Office and its role in supporting the United Nations counter-terrorism and technical assistance delivery activities. Some participants also noted the usefulness of other complementary mechanisms, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, in supporting the United Nations' objectives on counter-terrorism.

The Integrated Assistance on Countering Terrorism Initiative of the CTITF was highlighted as a valuable approach to enabling the United Nations system to deliver technical assistance to interested Member States



Participants repeatedly underscored the importance of promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law in all counter-terrorism activities.

in an integrated and coordinated manner, as well as ensuring that all four pillars of the Strategy are given due attention in Member States' capacity-building efforts.

In the interest of promoting integrated implementation, participants noted the need to develop national and regional counter-terrorism strategies based on the framework provided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Synergies between the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and regional and national strategies must be encouraged.

Participants recognized the value that regional and subregional institutions and mechanisms bring to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, particularly through cohesive regional approaches that enable more targeted prioritization and faster delivery of assistance. Participants also discussed ways to expand engagements between regional organizations, frameworks and mechanisms, and international partners on a number of counter-terrorism issues. Finally, greater contact between regional counter-terrorism capacity-development centres was also encouraged.

The use of the Internet by terrorists was also raised as an area of concern, and the discussions encouraged the United Nations system to continue to work in this important area through building on achievements already made.

Participants repeatedly underscored the importance of promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law in all counter-terrorism activities. Participants called for greater international and institutional cooperation to ensure that human rights are not violated in the fight against terrorism.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS

Participants highlighted the Secretary-General's Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism held in 2008 and welcomed the overall efforts of the United Nations ensuring that the rights of victims of terrorism are upheld and that victims are supported and given a voice in the struggle against terrorism.

The important role of civil society in promoting the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on the ground was discussed, especially given the advantages civil society organizations carry at the local level.

Participants also drew attention to the potential of public-private partnerships in the development and exchange of best practices, resource distribution and awareness-raising.

During the dedicated media roundtable event, participants highlighted the important role played by the media in global counter-terrorism efforts. Most notably, participants noted that the media provides an effective avenue to give a voice to victims of terrorism—a voice that is too often not heard. The media can also support efforts to counter the dangerous narratives of terrorist groups.

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Participants reaffirmed the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's (CTITF) efforts to promote and coordinate international cooperation and capacity-building. It was stressed that a majority of activities undertaken by CTITF and its entities on counter-terrorism matters rely on the future material support of Member States. The continuing partnerships with an ever-broadening group of contributors to CTITF activities were encouraged in order to realize initiatives in the future.

Participants called for continued efforts towards completing ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive convention on terrorism at the United Nations as well as for mechanisms to further dialogue on a range of topics to increase multilateral action against terrorism. ■

CTITF organizes a media round table

A number of journalists, government representatives and UN officials attended the media round-table organized by the CTITF at the margin of the Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation on 19 September 2011.

Addressing journalists, CTITF Chairman Robert Orr said the Symposium was aimed to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation as a lynchpin to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

“The bigger multilateral issues like regional cooperation, mutual legal assistance and capacity-building cannot be dealt without closer international cooperation. We wanted to profile the importance of dialogue and understanding and countering the appeal of terrorism, strengthening of the law enforcement efforts, the role of regional organizations and respect for human rights and rule of law as key components in the fight against terrorism”, he said.

The media round table provided an interactive opportunity between international journalists and government representatives as well as heads of UN entities working on counter-terrorism issues.

Indonesia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marty Natalegawa, called for patience and endurance as he addressed the question on the struggle for states to

find a balance between counter-terrorism and respect for human rights. “This is like a marathon. We need patience, perseverance and resilience to win. We have to be sure that we are as agile as the terrorists to be able to prevent terrorism. Heavy handed repressive measures



Indonesia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marty Natalegawa



Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre



Ambassador Abdallah Yahya Al-Mouallimi of Saudi Arabia

can only be good for certain periods of time probably, but cannot be sustained”, he added.

Responding to a question on governments' tendency to over play the threat of terrorism at the expense of human rights protection, Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre, acknowledged violations of civil liberties in this context. “There is a risk that under certain special circumstances governments can play up the threat and eventually it may threaten civil liberties. We need the full participation of civil society and democracy to act as a watchdog on governments”, he said.

Saudi Arabia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Abdallah Yahya Al-Mouallimi, echoed Støre's remarks. “Ignoring and

trampling down on human rights is a way of breeding more terrorists. We need to invest in prevention through economical and educational efforts as well as social accommodation and creation of social networks for those who need to be integrated prior to recruitment”.

Joel Sollier, General Counsel for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), also added, “There is always a risk of manipulation. But the reality of the threat, its gravity, cannot be denied”.

The Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Mike Smith, called for the involvement of local communities in the fight against terrorism. “Successful counter-terrorism cannot be

conducted without engaging local communities. One way of doing that is for each country to develop its own national counter-terrorism strategy”.

Richard Barrett, Coordinator, Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanction Committees Monitoring Team, noted the positive approach that states are taking to address terrorism. “In recent years we have witnessed the swing of the pendulum from purely oppressive ways of addressing terrorism to a more comprehensive and balanced approach. Al-Qaida is much weaker now but its ideology is still alive. We need to develop counter narratives, develop best messages, and identify best messengers to deliver the message and the best media”. ■

UN Centre for Counter Terrorism

The United Nations and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed a contribution agreement on the creation of a UN Centre for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT).

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the agreement at a high-level gathering on international counter-terrorism cooperation held on 19 September 2011 in New York.

“I am pleased to announce that the United Nations has signed an agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the creation of a United Nations Centre for Counter Terrorism. We

are placing a growing emphasis on supporting regional and subregional efforts”, Ban said.

CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Saudi Arabia will contribute \$10 million over the next three years to set up the Centre, which will be based within the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office in New York.

Pledging his Government’s continued support to global counter-terrorism efforts, Prince Saud Al-Faisal Al Saud, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia said, “This Centre

will be the first UN institution specialized in fighting terrorism. For its part, the Kingdom will support the international community in its efforts to eliminate terrorism”.

Many governments welcomed the creation of the Centre and emphasized that the Centre should focus on practical projects that strengthen the capacity of States to fight terrorism.

The Centre will support the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as foster international cooperation, strengthen individual countries’ capacity-building efforts and build up a database of best practices to counter terrorism. ■

Empowering victims of terrorism

Too often terrorists dominate the airwaves, leading the audience to believe that beyond destruction there is nothing worth the attention. Yet, the other part of the equation has the true cost of terrorism—the victims, whose stories are usually underreported.

In an effort to support and strengthen the voice of victims of terrorism to tell their stories, CTITF, in collaboration with the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation and a communications consultancy firm, organized a training workshop on effective communication for victims of terrorism in June 2011 at the United Nations in New York.

While welcoming the participants, CTITF Chairman Robert Orr

underscored the ability that victims have in the fight against terrorism. “When we started this path to bring victims and survivors for training, we wanted to do right by those who are and those who should not be victims. There is power in collective action when you bring victims and survivors together. The power of those affected by terrorism should not be underestimated”, he said.

Spanish Ambassador to the United Nations, Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, also addressed the participants and called for the creation of specific systems of assistance for victims. “Any multidimensional strategy in the fight

against terrorism must incorporate an element of assistance and solidarity with victims of terrorism. It is necessary to design and implement specific care and support tools, national and international, to meet the needs of victims of terrorism”, he said.

The four-day training focused on strengthening the ability of victims to conduct successful campaigns and interact with the media. These included skills in online and offline campaigns, media relations and compelling presentations that grab headlines.

During training, each participant developed a campaign strategy based on a personal experience that could be launched in their respective home countries. ■



Ambassador Juan Pablo De Laiglesia of Spain

Counter-terrorism challenges in Eastern Africa

Eastern Africa is one of the regions on the African continent that has suffered significantly from local and international terror attacks. On 4 October 2011, a truck bomb killed more than 60 people in Mogadishu, Somali, in 2010, 74 people were killed in Kampala, Uganda, as they gathered to watch the World Cup. Al Shabaab militants claimed responsibility in both attacks.

In an attempt to marshal regional efforts against terrorism, CTITF in collaboration with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, convened a workshop on the regional implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 to 28 July 2011.

The workshop was part of the CTITF project to promote in-depth knowledge and understanding of the Strategy and to make the UN counter-terrorism framework more relevant on the ground.

In his keynote speech, Ethiopian Justice Minister Ato Berhan Hailu lamented the effects of terrorism on the region. “It is a well-known fact that the countries in the Eastern Africa region are subjected to acts of terrorism on a continual basis. Their people have been constantly exposed to immeasurable suffering, and the damages inflicted on their fragile economies are immense as the result of subversive activities of terrorist from within and outside the region”, he said.



Cadets for the Southern Sudan Police Service in training

The workshop agreed to tackle some of the most critical challenges facing Eastern Africa collectively, by refocusing regional policy to priority threats and through the development of a regional action plan. The workshop focused on key areas in developing a broader approach to coun-

In his closing remarks, Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Officer-in-Charge of the CTITF Office outlined the key conclusions from the workshop, which included designing initiatives that draw on the framework of the Strategy to promote more effective leadership at the national and regional levels. Examples of such initiatives could be

a high-level meeting on key regional priorities and challenges; promoting regional efforts to counter conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; developing a counter-terrorism regional action plan for the implementation of the various pillars of the Global Strategy; and deepening the involvement of civil society in promoting the implementation of the Strategy through regional meetings.

During the workshop, the Eritrean delegation announced their Government’s decision to rejoin the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). ■

“Countries in the Eastern Africa region are subjected to acts of terrorism on a continual basis. Their people have been constantly exposed to immeasurable suffering.”



Ethiopian Justice Minister Ato Berhan Hailu

ter-terrorism, including educational curricula to promote tolerance; build state capacity; develop national criminal justice systems and the protection of human rights as a fundamental basis for countering terrorism.

The Al-Shabaab threat

The threat of terrorism emanating from Somalia, particularly by Al-Shabaab militants, was a central element discussed at the CTITF workshop on building in-depth knowledge of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July of this year.

Somalia's Ambassador to the United Nations, Idd Beddel Mohamed, bemoaned the lack of political will at the regional and international levels to support Somalia's quest for peace. "The threat emanating from Somalia is very grave and yet there is reluctance at the regional and international levels to stabilize the country. We have repeatedly made requests to



Ambassador Idd Beddel Mohamed of Somalia

the Security Council for a UN peacekeeping operation but we have been told, 'there is no peace to keep in Somalia' and yet our people continue to die", he said.

One of the conditions for the authorization of a UN peacekeeping mission is a signed peace agreement by warring parties. Given that Al-Shabaab is a terrorist group with an illusive leadership structure to engage with politically, a peace agreement remains out of reach.

From the counter-terrorism perspective, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides tools that could help address the threat of terrorism in Somalia. The Strategy

calls for a balanced and comprehensive approach which includes hard and soft measures such as education, countering the appeal of terrorism through dialogue and understanding, and creating opportunities for young people.

Other measures proposed by participants at the workshop include drying out Al-Shabaab's financial resources and access to arms. It was proposed that a high-level regional meeting of political leaders and policy-makers be convened to explore options on how to respond to the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and the implications of instability in Somalia.

With Al-Shabaab on the retreat, there is a small window of opportunity to move the counter-terrorism efforts forward, but the Government is concerned that if the issue of defectors is not addressed, it would become a security hazard. "One hundred and fifty Al-Shabaab fighters have defected but we do not have the resources and capacity to help them. We need support to establish mechanisms to assist with rehabilitation and reintegration processes, otherwise they will become a security burden", Somalia's Director of Foreign Affairs, Hussein Sheikh Ali, told participants to the workshop.

In his closing remarks, Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Officer-in-Charge of CTITF, said, "we have shared some extremely useful ideas on how to support Somalia. The United Nations stands ready to assist". ■



Streets of Bakara Market in central Mogadishu, Somalia. Bakara was a strategic stronghold of Al-Shabaab

Central Asia's joint action plan within sight

The process which began with a series of experts meetings designed to lay the foundation for a plan of action to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia will conclude with a ministerial meeting to adopt the plan in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 30 November 2011.

Speaking at the expert meeting held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in July 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Miroslav Jenca, said, "The plan of action would allow for a common framework that identifies joint goals to be achieved. It would serve both as a policy document and a concrete platform for action to achieve a comprehensive, holistic and consensual undertaking among the multiple stakeholders of the region. It would not duplicate existing initiatives launched by governments, regional and international organizations but proceed from and build on them".

Ambassador Norbert Jousten of the European Union was confident that recommendations from the three experts meetings would be adopted by the ministerial conference. "I believe that the sets of recommendations adopted in each expert meeting will be successfully endorsed in a joint plan of action that will serve not only as a basis for future activities and capacity-building in the field of terrorism, but will also enhance our mutual efforts

in responding to and preventing all threats that terrorism poses".

The meeting in Almaty examined states' capacities to combat and prevent terrorism; the role of regional organizations and the United Nations in building states' capacities; enhancing information sharing on technical assistance and public awareness



The third expert meeting discussing states' capacities to combat and prevent terrorism, Almaty, Kazakhstan

on counter-terrorism; and advancing public-private partnerships to prevent and combat terrorism.

Central Asian States need support in capacity-building especially in areas such as border management, law enforcement, criminal justice systems, staff training, technical assistance and hardware for the security sector. Specific capacity-building initiatives in anti-money laundering, counter-financing of terrorism, countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and preventing access of weapons of mass destruction to terrorists are also required.

In that regard, participants proposed establishing a Central Asian counter-terrorism centre, dedicated to training activities including programmes for the youth in rural areas.

They also encouraged the CTITF and its entities as well as regional organizations to organize more round-table discussions, workshops, trainings and platforms for dialogue to support implementation of the Strategy in Central Asia.

Enhancing public awareness against terrorism was another imperative underlined by the workshop. It was proposed that a major public conference for civil society, the media and research institutions be convened to promote awareness, and that regional training programme as well as a regional media plan be developed to boost media capacity in the fight against terrorism.

Participants also highlighted the role of the media in developing effective counter narratives to prevent recruitment, launching public debates

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Counter-Terrorism efforts in Southern Africa

When Southern African countries met to discuss the regional implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Windhoek, Namibia, from 5 to 6 October 2011, it became apparent that counter-terrorism laws and practical measures to reinforce inter-agency and inter-state cooperation have not received the necessary priority.

Namibia's Minister of Safety and Security, Nangolo Mbumba, attributed the low investment in counter-terrorism measures to the historically low threat posed by local and international terrorist groups in the region.

Mbumba urged regional governments to expand their margins of safety and security by embracing a new mindset to counter global terrorism. "Any major international terrorist attack against our member countries can push us into a global economic recession", he said.

The workshop was organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism

Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in close collaboration with the Government of Namibia to promote in-depth knowledge and understanding of the Strategy in the region and to make the UN counter-terrorism agenda more relevant to the practical needs on the ground.



Namibian Minister of Safety and Security, Nangolo Mbumba

The UN Resident Coordinator, Alaphia Wright, hailed the critical role that CTITF plays in ensuring coordination between all relevant UN entities against terrorism while calling for more efforts to address economic development, education, rampant unemployment, poverty and social intolerance which work in

favour of terrorism.

In his closing remarks, Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Officer-in-Charge of the CTITF Office, highlighted the key conclusions which included the need to establish a "systems integration" approach. It should be "a grounded and institutionalized government-supported mechanism that allows for a functional

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on counter-terrorism policies, highlighting the plight of victims and monitoring compliances with international counter-terrorism instruments. A regional training programme as well as a regional media plan was proposed to boost media capacity in the fight against terrorism.

The Central Asia initiative is a joint endeavour of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task-Force (CTITF) and the European Union. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) is the implementation partner. ■

and practical exchange of priorities and methods between all relevant stakeholders in order to counter terrorism through a comprehensive approach".

Shah said, the imperatives of regional security and development, complemented with credible justice systems, "which not only enable[s] states to fulfil their responsibilities to protect their citizens from terrorism, but also create[s] a rule of law-based environment."

Participants agreed that the challenges of establishing credible justice systems could be overcome through confidence-building measures such as creation of dedicated regional forums or associations of judicial or legal officials to share information and best practices, and finding locally acceptable solutions to persistent problems. Also capacity-building could be enhanced through training by the United Nations, relevant regional judicial institutions.

With regard to the challenge of countering financing of terrorism, participants agreed that regional cooperation on this issue could help governments to monitor and stop the movement of illicit funds.

Participants noted that Police cooperation and capacity-building initiatives in Southern Africa had significantly improved but lack of sustained engagement between donors and the region could undermine this achievement. In this regard the role of the CTITF entities as facilitators of assistance was important.

The workshop was supported by the Governments of Austria, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America. ■

Interview with OAS Secretary-General José Miguel Insulza

While states are the primary implementers of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, their efforts are supplemented by regional organizations. The Organization of American States (OAS) has been instrumental in this regard. In an interview with Verona Lambert, the OAS Secretary-General, José Miguel Insulza, described major initiatives that his organization has taken to implement the Strategy.



OAS Secretary-General, José Miguel Insulza

Q: What is the role of the OAS in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy?

A: The mandate of the OAS is aligned with the priorities of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We have initiated different programmes to implement the Strategy.

We are providing technical assistance to requesting countries in the legal and related aspects of counter-terrorism, and strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems. Since 2006, 1,870 high-ranking authorities, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and financial intelligence units officials have received training.

Critical infrastructure protection: Tourism is a major source of wealth, employment, economic and social prosperity for many countries of the Americas. However, and from a terrorist and crime perspective, tourism and recreational facilities, because of their nature, are considered soft targets. We are working with the United

Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in developing and strengthening public-private partnerships to protect vulnerable targets.

“Tourism is a major source of wealth, employment, economic and social prosperity for many countries of the Americas. From a terrorist and crime perspective, tourism and recreational facilities are considered soft targets.”

In 2006, the OAS and UNICRI launched the IPO Americas programme to facilitate cooperation among countries in the Western Hemisphere and to promote sharing of best practices. The programme has since led to the creation of the first *Network of National Focal Points for Major Events Security* with the participation of 29 countries.

Cyber security: Cyber security has been elevated on most Member States’ list of national security priorities. We are working on establishing national

alert watch and warning capabilities networks also called computer security incident response teams. Last May, the first technical simulation exercise was conducted to test the regional response and mitigation capabilities of a cyber security attack. About 28 OAS Member States participated. We have also provided training to at least 50 officials responsible for policy and technical aspects of cyber incident management at the national level.

Strengthening strategies on emerging threats: Our emerging threats programme constitutes a series of crisis management exercises based on a given scenario addressing an incident provoked by modern potential threats like a bioterrorism-related incident. The programme is to assist OAS Member States to prepare to deal with potential terrorist incidents better by engaging senior policymakers in realistic tabletop exercises designed to bring specific issues of contingency planning and threat mitigation to their attention.

Documents security and fraud prevention: On this issue, the OAS has set up capacity-building efforts with the requesting OAS Member States to improve the security of identity and travel documents and to prevent and detect their alteration or fraudulent use. Training workshops have focused on a range of aspects of border, migration and customs controls like passenger and behavioural screening, luggage and cargo screening, human trafficking, and the detection of fraud involving travel, identity and other documents.

Maritime security: Through our maritime security programme, we seek to strengthen OAS Member States’

capacity to comply effectively with the security requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. The programme includes comprehensive port security assessments and follow-on training, crisis management exercises, maritime security drills and exercises, cruise ship facility security, and coordination between facility security and customs personnel.

We contract companies experienced in maritime and port security to conduct comprehensive port facility security training needs assessments that evaluate access controls to port facilities, cargo security, customs and emigration performance and procedures, including police and guard procedures, and security awareness in general.

Our exercises are aimed at helping OAS Member States to raise awareness, and develop capacities and national strategies that would facilitate the resumption of maritime trade in the event of an interruption in the maritime transportation system as the result of a terrorist act or natural disasters.

Aviation security: The OAS identifies and provides technical assistance and training to Member States on security-related aviation procedures and improvements to help them meet International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

Our aviation security programme includes: national and subregional training primarily offered by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, but increasingly with experts from Spain, Canada, and Israel; and scholarships to aid Member State participation in training courses conducted by ICAO.

Q: *What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Strategy?*

A: The biggest challenge we face today is self complacency. We have to strongly make countries understand that this is a common struggle in which we can never feel completely safe. We have not had major terror attacks in the region since the blasts in Argentina in the 1990s and attacks on the United States in 2001. The major threat

is posed by drug lords and criminal groups in Mexico and Central America who use terrorist methods to instil fear. Since this is not politically motivated, it is difficult to convince every country how necessary it is to work on counter-terrorism activities.

“Terrorism is mostly mentioned in relation to some political ideologies in some regions of the world. I think that the concept should be much broader. Acts of terrorism that have other goals should also be considered.”

Terrorism is mostly mentioned in relation to some political ideologies in some regions of the world. I think that the concept should be much broader. Acts of terrorism that have other goals should also be considered. For instance a bomb attack in a casino in Mexico is not necessarily to promote a political cause but to silence and instil fear in people, so that they do not interfere in the territory of criminals. ■



OAS Team conducting a tourism safety course

Counter-Terrorism Committee calls for zero tolerance to terrorism

The Counter-Terrorism Committee held a special meeting on 28 September to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 and urged “all Member States to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism and take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and other international and regional organizations shared their views on counter-terrorism during the day-long event at UN Headquarters in New York. Their opinions on progress made so far in the implementation of resolution 1373 and the future work of the Committee were captured in the outcome document the Committee approved at the end of its special meeting.



Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, of India is the Chair of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee

Speaking at the opening session, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that “the adoption of resolution 1373 was a milestone in the strong leadership of the UN in combating terrorism globally”. It came close to two weeks

after the September 2001 attacks on the United States, a turning point in the fight against terrorism.

The United Nations had worked for decades on the issue, but “the nature, intensity, coordination and sophistication of those

horrendous attacks brought home the need for urgent and concerted action to collectively combat the scourge of terrorism”, said Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Chair of the Committee.

“Issues such as education, humanitarian support and good governance are important for their own sake, but they are also relevant to our work and should be taken into account in broader, more comprehensive and integrated strategies to address terrorism”.

Resolution 1373 is one of the important tools the United Nations has developed to tackle this global threat. Among other things, it requires all states to criminalize terrorism, deny terrorists safe haven and financial support, and cooperate with other states to bring terrorists to justice.

In the past decade, “the international community has vigorously responded to the call to rise up to the unprecedented challenges posed by terrorism”, Ambassador Puri said.

At the Committee’s special meeting, participants highlighted positive developments, such as the increase in the number of states that have ratified the international treaties against terrorism, established financial intelligence units, and introduced new systems of border security. Speakers also said that international cooperation is stronger today than 10 years ago.

However, more needs to be done to implement resolution 1373 fully. In the outcome document, the Committee stressed the importance of states complying with their

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Global Counter-Terrorism Survey

The Global Implementation Survey (GIS) that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) released in September 2011 provides information on the state of counter-terrorism around the world as it relates to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373.

CTED experts relied primarily on information submitted by Member States and partner organizations, reports of country visits, and regional workshops as the basis for the publication. The survey is divided geographically and focuses on the main thematic areas contained in resolution 1373.

Adopted on 28 September 2001, the resolution requires all Member States of the United Nations to take measures to improve their legal and institutional ability to prevent and combat terrorism.



Mike Smith, CTED Executive Director

Prepared at the request of the Security Council, the GIS evaluates, region by region strengths and vulnerabilities, identifies gaps in implementation and recommends future action. The survey found that States continue to struggle to secure porous borders, monitor financial systems, strengthen their judicial systems, and prosecute or extradite terrorism suspects.

Insufficient funding and training are two factors that limit the ability of states to be as effective as they would want. Terrorists are also increasingly using the Internet and other new technologies that are difficult to block in order to recruit, incite and raise funds for their activities. Another area of concern is the link between terrorist networks and organized crime.

Despite facing challenges, the survey notes that States have made “much progress” since the adoption of the resolution. CTED experts wrote that “the resolution has brought increased solidarity and intensified dialogue among Member States” to tackle terrorism. Among other things, the survey also indicates that certain terrorist networks have been weakened and plots thwarted due to a heightened level of vigilance and effective police and intelligence work.

The survey offers several recommendations to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1373. Prevention is critical, for example, as is dealing with terrorism beyond law enforcement. According to the GIS, “Effective responses will necessarily include other aspects of legal and social policy”. Development, education, social integration and human rights are four key components. ■

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obligations. To be effective, one of the actions states should take is to develop comprehensive strategies to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

As Mike Smith, head of the Committee’s Executive Directorate, said: “Issues such as education, humanitarian support and good governance are important for their own sake, but they are also relevant to our work

and should be taken into account in broader, more comprehensive and integrated strategies to address terrorism”.

On the margins of the special meeting, the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation organized a side event to examine the different ways in which civil society can contribute to UN counter-terrorism efforts. ■

CTITF launches a new website

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) has launched a new website to increase access to information about UN counter-terrorism activities for Member States, international organizations, media, civil society and the broader international audience.

The new website is user friendly and provides information on the CTITF work. It also serves as a gateway to the individual entity websites.

www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctitf



Second Chance documentary

The United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia premiered a documentary film *Second Chance*. The Monitoring Team and the Department of Public Information are lead entities of this project.



Second Chance is a story of a former Al-Qaida bomb expert, Khalid Al-Jhani, who renounced his violent lifestyle to focus on his family and community in Saudi Arabia. Khalid became a test case for Saudi Arabia's

rehabilitation programme for individuals convicted of terrorist acts.

The Saudi documentary is the second in a series of films produced as part of the CTITF documentaries project to counter the appeal of terrorism. The project aims at highlighting the stories of repentant terrorists and provides a platform for them and their victims to speak out against terrorism to dissuade individuals vulnerable to recruitment.

“Terrorism is about people, victims, perpetrators as well as those who have repented from acts of terrorism. That is hard to capture in policy debates, in press conferences, and in books. One way of capturing that is by hearing real life time stories and that is what this project is about”, said CTITF Chairman Robert Orr during the launch of *Second Chance*.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United Nations, Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, underscored the importance of prevention as a cost-effective measure to counter-terrorism. “Violent extremism cannot be combated through traditional security measures alone. Such methods used alone tend to create a vicious cycle of violence. The Saudi approach is composed of three interconnected programmes aimed at prevention, rehabilitation and post-release care. In the past six years, rehabilitation and counter radicalization programmes have been very successful”, he said.

The audience observed that while many countries would be interested in replicating the Saudi programme, the

Upcoming Events:

- Ministerial Meeting of the CTITF Central Asia Project on 30 November 2011 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- CTITF Inter-Agency Meeting on 18-19 December 2011 at Greentree-Manhasset, New York
- CTITF briefing to Member States on 20 December 2011
- CTITF Human Rights Working Group on Fair Trial on 6-7 February 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey
- ICAO Regional Seminar on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), Biometrics and Border Security from 30 November to 2 December 2011 in Singapore

cost to run such endeavours could be daunting. Mr. Al-Mouallimi responded that financing of the cost aspect should not be an impediment to establish such centres around the world if they serve the purpose. The responsibility to provide these means must be an international community responsibility”, he added.



Richard Barret, Coordinator of 1267 Monitoring Team

The first film, *The Terrorist Who Came Home*, about a repentant Algerian terrorist was launched in January 2011. Richard Barret, the Coordinator of the Al-Qaida/Taliban Monitoring Team, said a third documentary was on the way. “We are close

to an agreement with Malaysia for another film which will show different aspects of the central issue that terrorism is very local and very personal in its origin and its impact”. ■

CTITF *The* BEAM

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) was established by the Secretary-General in 2005 to enhance coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. The Task Force consists of 31 international entities which by virtue of their work have a stake in counter-terrorism efforts. Each entity makes contributions consistent with its mandate.

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