UNITED NATIONS ACTION TO COUNTER TERRORISM

Fact Sheet

Pillar I

Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

Under this pillar, Member States are to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, by strengthening existing programmes on conflict prevention, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. They are also to place an added emphasis on initiatives that promote inter-religious and intercultural tolerance, reduce the marginalization of vulnerable populations, such as the youth, and promote social inclusion. Member States also note the importance of addressing the needs of victims through the adoption of national and regional systems of assistance.

The Working Group on Preventing and Resolving Conflict has undertaken efforts to integrate counter-terrorism objectives into the long-standing work conducted by the United Nations system on the prevention and resolution of armed conflict. In collaboration with Member States in the region, the Working Group has developed an initiative to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. Jointly arranged by the Working Group and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), the initiative will address conditions conducive to terrorism, enhance capacity-building to prevent and combat terrorism at the national and regional levels while promoting and protecting human rights, and determine how the United Nations can better support regional implementation efforts identified in an action plan.

The Working Group has also developed easily readable guidelines for UN peace mediators and negotiators on how to take counter-terrorism aspects into consideration during their work. The guidelines are available on the CTITF website.

To assist States in taking practical action to address issues that promote extremism and recruitment to terrorism, CTITF Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism is undertaking a Documentaries Project to Counter the Appeal of Terrorism, led by the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee and supported by DPI (UNTV) and the CTITF Office. The aim of the Documentaries Project is to undermine the appeal of terrorism by providing a platform for former terrorists and their victims to speak out against terrorism, specifically targeting vulnerable groups of young people. The Monitoring Team and the EOSG are currently working with several interested States to produce brief documentary films of repentant terrorists and their victims.

Apart from actions taken by the Task Force, CTITF entities have pursued efforts in their individual capacity.

The Department of Political Affairs (DPA), through its Special Political Missions on the ground and efforts led by the Special Representatives and Envoys of the

Secretary-General has facilitated a number of peace agreements around the world. DPA also proactively engages with national, regional and international actors through its regional offices, such as the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), in an effort to prevent aand resolve conflict.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, including inter-religious and inter-faith dialogue, through the fostering of exchanges and quality education at different levels of society. The UNESCO Culture of Peace Coordination solicits contributions from UN agencies and programmes as regards their adherence to, and implementation of, the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and presents them in a systematic and consolidated manner in official UN documents. UNESCO promotes tools, such as "Guidelines on Intercultural Education" and established an Intersectoral Platform "Contributing to the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures and a Culture of Peace" on joint programme implementation.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) works with Member States, media, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society to promote dialogue, respect, tolerance and cultural diversity. DPI has organized a series of seminars entitled "Unlearning Intolerance," aimed at examining different manifestations of intolerance, and discussing how they can be addressed through education and access to information. Seminars held so far have focused on issues including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, the role of the media, preventing genocide and the role of political cartoons, art and the environment, and the dangers of cyber hate.

The Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, operating under the Human Rights Council, addresses the role of promoting human rights while eliminating conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. This is done through country-specific work, including country visits, and in thematic reports submitted to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office (OHCHR) contributes to addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism through the promotion and protection of human rights. OHCHR works closely with UN peacekeeping operations and with partners at the country and local levels in order to ensure government authorities are aware of their human rights obligations. To this end, OHCHR designs effective remedies to overcome obstacles to the realization of human rights and to combat all forms of discrimination. Through participation in a number of CTITF Working Groups and initiatives, OHCHR aims to mainstream key human rights issues and challenges to integrate a human rights approach to the various projects carried out by the CTITF in its efforts to assist Member States implement the Strategy. These include the I-ACT initiative, the Working Group on preventing and resolving conflicts, the Working group on supporting victims, as well as the Working Group on the Use of internet for terrorism purposes.

The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) opened the "Centre on Policies to Counter the Appeal of Terrorism" in June 2010. The Centre will be analyzing different policies and programmes on detection and prevention of pathways into terrorism, early intervention efforts against terrorist recruitment, and rehabilitation initiatives. The Centre will establish a searchable web-based database containing information for governments to counter the appeal of terrorism; produce an annual analytical report based on non-reserved information provided by Member States; organize a series of regional and inter-regional roundtables; and convey an international conference at the end of the pilot phase. The Centre, run in close coordination with the CTITF, is based at the UNICRI Lab's Dialogue and Innovation Office in Lucca, Italy.

The International Civil Aviation Organization is in the process of developing an international convention, which will establish a supplementary mechanism for the third-party victims of terrorist acts involving civil aircraft.

For more information of the Strategy-related work of CTITF entities, see the Report of the Secretary-General "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of United Nations system info implementing the Strategy" (A/64/818/ June 2010).

The above inventory of United Nations counter-terrorism related actions is based on information provided by CTITF member entities. For more information please visit: www.un.org/terrorism. For detailed information on the activities of CTITF working groups please visit: http://www.un.org/terrorism/cttaskforce.shtml

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