

# UN ACTION TO COUNTER TERRORISM

March 2009

Fact Sheet

## Implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) -- adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006 -- is the first ever comprehensive, collective and internationally approved global framework for tackling the problem of terrorism. In September 2008, all 192 Member States confirmed their full commitment to the principles of the Strategy and pledged to pursue its vigorous implementation (A/RES/62/272). The Strategy through its action plan divided into four topical pillars, spells out concrete measures for Member States to take individually as well as collectively to: address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, prevent and combat terrorism and strengthen their individual and collective capacity to do so, and protect human rights and uphold the rule of law while countering terrorism. The Strategy calls for Member States to work together and with the United Nations system to implement the provisions of the plan of action contained in the strategy and at the same time calls for United Nations entities to assist Member States in their efforts.

The United Nations departments, programmes, funds and agencies have been taking actions in a number of areas in line with the four pillars of the Strategy both in their individual capacity and through joint efforts in the framework of the **Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)\***. The Task Force, established in 2005 by the Secretary-General and chaired by his office, works to ensure overall coordination and coherence among at least two dozen entities throughout the United Nations system involved in counter-terrorism efforts. The Task Force has provided a forum for information sharing and increased collaboration within the United Nations system and established working groups undertaking programs of work in areas identified in the Strategy where cooperation among United Nations system actors can add value.

*The following is a summary of actions taken by the CTITF member entities in their individual as well as their collective capacity to assist Member States in implementing the Strategy. For more information on the Strategy-relevant work of CTITF entities, see the Report of the Secretary General "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy" (A/62/898, July 2008).*

### 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 **Department of Political Affairs** leads on conflict prevention by assisting the Secretary-General, his special envoys and political missions engaged in preventive diplomacy in the field. DPA also works with other U.N. entities, member states, regional and sub-regional organizations and civil society to prevent conflict. The Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General have helped to facilitate peace agreements in many conflicts around the world. Pursuant to the 2005 World Summit decision, a Mediation Support Unit has been established in DPA to provide operational support to peace processes and be a repository of knowledge for mediators. In the first half of 2008, DPA has utilized MSU to provide support to 15 peace processes.
- ◆ The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** 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 that advance human rights, democratic citizenship and tolerance, cross-cultural journalist networks, and training in intercultural mediation.

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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. Examples of UNESCO actions include the international conferences “Youth at the Crossroads – a Future without Violent Radicalization” held in Bahrain in June 2008, and the Copenhagen Conference “Education for Intercultural Understanding and Dialogue”, held in October 2008. 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** 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 and on art and the environment. The next seminar will focus on the dangers of cyber hate.
- ◆ The **Special Rapporteur** on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, operating under the new Human Rights Council, addresses the role of promoting human rights in 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 **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** has framed, in cooperation with the UN Alliance of Civilization, a project aiming at promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean.
- ◆ The **International Civil Aviation Organization** is in the process of developing an international convention, which will establish a supplementary compensation mechanism for the third-party victims of terrorist acts involving civil aircraft.
- ◆ Apart from the actions taken by Task Force entities in their individual capacity, CTITF members have also pursued efforts collectively through **working groups** on ‘**Preventing and Resolving Conflicts**’, ‘**Addressing Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism**’, and ‘**Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism**.’ The activities of these Working Groups include providing guidance to UN peace mediators and negotiators on how to take counter-terrorism aspects into consideration during their work; compiling actions taken by Member States to address radicalization; and organizing a global symposium on supporting victims of terrorism, bringing together victims, Member States and civil society to share experiences and provide recommendations on the way forward.

## Preventing and combating terrorism

*As the Strategy recognizes that terrorists need both the means to carry out their attacks and a set of high value targets, therefore, under this pillar a wide variety of actions are listed for Member States to take to deny terrorists access to resources and to protect particular vulnerable targets.*

- ◆ **Sixteen universal legal instruments** (13 instruments and three amendments) have been developed and adopted under the auspices of the United Nations and related intergovernmental organizations. Most of these instruments are in force and provide a legal framework for multilateral actions against terrorism and criminalize specific acts of terrorism, including hijacking, hostage-taking, terrorist bombings, financing of terrorism and nuclear terrorism. They are complemented by resolutions of the General Assembly (49/60, 51/210 and 60/288) and of the Security Council (1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1566 (2004) and 1624 (2005)).
- ◆ The **Counter-Terrorism Committee** and its **Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate** (CTED) are responsible for monitoring implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and

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1624 (2005), and for facilitating technical assistance to countries requesting it. On the basis of multiple reports submitted by all 192 Member States and additional sources of information, the Committee has completed the preliminary assessments of implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) of all Member States and has since engaged in a dialogue with Member States to ensure that the assessments are comprehensive and accurate. The Committee has also conducted visits to 37 Member States and is planning visits to another 13.

- ◆ Under the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime, which is managed by the **1267 Committee of the Security Council**, the Council requires all States to impose an assets freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo on individuals and entities who have been placed on the 1267 Committee's Consolidated List on the basis of their association with Al-Qaida, Usama Bin Laden and/or the Taliban. These sanctions measures apply wherever the listed individuals and entities are located. As of February 2009, the Consolidated List contained the names of 396 individuals and 112 entities and 48 States had frozen financial assets as a result of the listings.
- ◆ The **Monitoring Team**, which assists the 1267 Committee in promoting implementation of the sanctions regime, has so far compiled nine analytical reports assessing the implementation of the sanctions, the changing nature of the threat posed by Al Qaida and the Taliban and the best measures to confront it. The Team has visited more than 80 Member States to discuss how to improve the sanctions regime and has established cooperation with 34 international and regional bodies. It has also established four regional groups of intelligence and security agencies from various countries as well as a group of bankers and others from the private financial sector, including from the informal sector, to provide further advice and offer proposals for the Security Council's consideration.
- ◆ The **Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)** and its experts have examined reports from 155 Member States (with 102 of those providing additional information) and one organization (the European Union) on their efforts to meet the requirements of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), while working to identify deficiencies and suggest improvements in preventing access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and their components.
- ◆ **Military and police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations** have provided a more secure environment in 16 conflict zones all over the world in the last five years. This has helped to limit terrorist opportunities to recruit and to conduct their operations in these regions.
- ◆ The **International Atomic Energy Agency** is implementing its second dedicated Nuclear Security Plan (NSP) – the first covered the years 2002-2005 and the second covers 2006-2009 – which is geared to further improve and strengthen security globally of nuclear and other radioactive materials in use, storage and transport by supporting States in their efforts to bolster their national nuclear security regimes.
- ◆ The **Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA)** continues to develop a single comprehensive Bio-Incident Database as mandated by the Strategy. The database is available for pilot use by interested Member States, upon request. The software platform for the database provides for a secure web-based entry tool for reporting biological incidents. Additionally, ODA is mandated to update and maintain the roster of experts and laboratories available to the Secretary-General for timely and efficient investigation of alleged use of chemical and biological weapons. In 2008, the Office continued updating the roster of experts and laboratories with an emphasis on technical capabilities using specifically developed forms. This update allowed for the identification of existing gaps in certain areas of expertise and further requests were made to provide such expertise. Under the existing mandates, ODA continues to work on the technical guidelines and procedures for relevant investigations.
- ◆ The **International Civil Aviation Organization** develops treaties, international standards and recommended practices (SARPs) as well as guidance material to protect aircraft, airports and other air navigation facilities. SARPs adopted by its Council cover, among other things, the measures for the prevention of unlawful interference and the facilitation of border-crossing procedures. Starting in 2002, ICAO conducted 181 aviation security audits in its initial cycle of audits to determine the level of implementation of those aviation security standards. In 2008, it initiated a second cycle of audits, and as of 31 January 2009, 25 Cycle II security audits were conducted. ICAO continues to support the efforts of

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States to resolve safety and security deficiencies identified through the audits by seeking resources from States, international organizations, industry and other stakeholders.

- ◆ The **International Maritime Organization** adopted mandatory measures to enhance Maritime Security including the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code which was implemented by 158 Member States representing 99% of the world's merchant fleet (around 40,000 ships) engaged in international voyages and about 10,000 port facilities had their port facility security plans developed and approved.
- ◆ The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** helps Member States to strengthen international cooperation in combating crimes that might be connected with terrorism, including drug trafficking in all its aspects, illicit arm trade and money laundering. The Office assists Member States with the ratification and the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption and assists them in using the provisions of these instruments to create domestic criminal offences, to adopt new frameworks for mutual legal assistance, extradition and law enforcement cooperation, as well as to enhance technical assistance and training.
- ◆ The **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** has launched, in cooperation with the European Commission and with the technical assistance of IAEA, OPCW, EUROPOL, WCO and SECI Center, a Knowledge Management System to prevent illicit trafficking and terrorist use of chemical, biological radiological or nuclear material in South-East Europe and the Caucasus. The programme aims at improving the exchange of information and expertise between countries and international as well as regional organizations.
- ◆ The **World Health Organization** is concerned with public health readiness and response to all public health emergencies of international concern, whatever their origin or source, within the framework of the International Health Regulations (2005). A Global Alert and Response system detects international public health events, performs a risk assessment and is able to mobilize an international network of public health partners to assist countries to respond. Guidance has been prepared to assist countries to assess and improve their readiness for managing the public health consequences of a biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear terrorist incident. WHO has developed standards and provides training for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, to encourage safe use and safekeeping of biological materials, thus minimizing the risk of their diversion.
- ◆ **\*\*The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**, as the world's largest international police organization with 187 member countries, through a special Task Force, provides a forum for counter-terrorism experts to exchange best practices, as well as operational information, in order to identify active terrorist groups and their membership, including organizational hierarchies, methods of training, financing and recruitment of terrorist suspects and groups. INTERPOL maintains a broad range of global databases that contain key information (e.g., wanted individuals, fingerprints, photos, DNA profiles, etc.) and has developed technology to make such data, especially its database on Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD), available at border security points. It also co-ordinates the circulation of alerts and warnings on suspected or wanted terrorists and assists the UN Security Council with the implementation of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime by circulating to law enforcement authorities worldwide relevant information on individuals and entities under UN sanctions. Upon request, INTERPOL assists its member countries in their investigations in the aftermath of a terrorist act by deploying on-site Incident Response Teams (IRTs). Additionally, upon request INTERPOL will deploy an INTERPOL Major Event Support Team (IMEST) to assist member countries in the preparation, co-ordination and implementation of security arrangements for major events. An IMEST also has the capacity and resources to immediately become an IRT if a crisis situation materializes at a major event.
- ◆ Apart from the actions taken by Task Force entities in their individual capacity, CTITF members have also pursued efforts collectively through **working groups** on '**Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets**', '**Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks**', '**Tackling the Financing of Terrorism**', and '**Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes**.' The activities of these Working Groups include the establishment of a referral centre at INTERPOL's General Secretariat facilitating the sharing of vulnerable target protection resources and best practices and, upon request, assisting member countries developing or enhanc-

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ing protection strategies; a stock-taking exercise on the implementation of international standards for combating the financing of terrorism and a report containing recommendations on how to improve implementation; as well as a mapping exercise and stakeholder meeting focused on countering terrorist use of the internet.

## Building state capacity to counter terrorism

*In the Strategy, Member States recognized capacity-building as the cornerstone of a global effort to counter terrorism. Under this, third pillar of actions, the Strategy calls for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, to provide technical assistance to identify gaps or vulnerabilities, to provide opportunities for information exchange and networking that could lead to inter-state cooperation and sharing of “best practices” and to raise public awareness about the threat of terrorism.*

- ◆ The **Office of Legal Affairs** has prepared publications and conducted seminars and training programs to disseminate information regarding the universal counter-terrorism instruments and to encourage State participation in these treaty regimes.
- ◆ The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** has assisted more than 164 countries in becoming parties to and implementing the 16 international conventions and protocols related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity building. Since the launch of its Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism in January 2003, the Office has provided tailor-made national level assistance to 120 countries, organized 63 sub-regional and regional workshops and trained more than 7,700 national criminal justice officials. The Office has also developed more than a dozen technical assistance tools, including legislative databases and model legislative provisions against terrorism. Increased focus is given to build and transfer, in a systematic and sustained manner, specialized counter-terrorism legal knowledge and substantive expertise in specific thematic areas such as nuclear terrorism or maritime terrorism. The Office also continues, through its Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, to deploy professional expertise in the field to train officials of relevant authorities and build institutions to improve countries' capacities in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- ◆ The **Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate** has developed a revised technical assistance strategy that was approved by the Counter-Terrorism Committee in June 2008. Under the revised strategy, CTED has identified and made referrals on 84 cases of technical assistance needs to potential donors. It has also created on the website of the Counter-Terrorism Committee a directory of international best practices, codes and standards for the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).
- ◆ The **Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee** has also collected information and requests from over 150 Member States relating to their technical assistance needs for more effective implementation of the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions regime and forwarded this information to both the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Terrorism Prevention Branch) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for information and action.
- ◆ With its field presence in 166 countries, the **United Nations Development Programme** undertakes, at the request of governments, numerous activities to promote governance and rule of law, including programmes to support the implementation of anti-money laundering legislation and the strengthening of justice systems.
- ◆ The **Department of Peacekeeping Operations** provides training to national police and law enforcement officers and officials on criminal matters including kidnapping, information-gathering, hostage-taking, close protection, and the investigation of assassinations, murders and bombings.
- ◆ The **Department of Safety and Security** is responsible for coordinating the activities of the UN integrated security management system relative to the safety and security of UN staff, assets and operations at all UN duty stations around the world taking into account various threats, including terrorism.
- ◆ The **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** -- in compliance with the UN

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Resolution on the International Permanent Observatory (IPO) -- continued to provide support to Member States engaged in the security preparations of major events, such as the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and other large-scale sporting events, high level summits and mass events. It has also further developed two regional initiatives: in Europe it has strengthened the EU-SEC Programme, enlarging its network to 22 EU Member States and EUROPOL, while in the Americas it has launched, in cooperation with the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, the regional Programme IPO Americas, which set up the first formal network of National Focal Points on major events, involving 24 countries in the region.

- ◆ The **International Atomic Energy Agency** activities aimed at assisting States have included: more than 100 evaluation missions to help States to identify their own broad nuclear security requirements; arranging for the recovery, disposition and/or storage of approximately 100 high-activity and neutron sources; helping States in training customs and other border officials and installing detection equipment at border crossings; and, operating a 24 hour contact network to facilitate States' cooperation in the event of a nuclear accident or a radiological emergency. The Agency also helps States to implement current and future undertakings to the instruments that form the strengthened international platform in the area of nuclear security, like the recently amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials, the Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).
- ◆ The **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** contributes to global anti-terrorism efforts by promoting universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention and through the implementation of its mandate, including maintaining a high degree of readiness to provide assistance in the case of any use or threat of use of chemical weapons. At the same time, the Technical Secretariat is convinced that there are fields in which there is room for further constructive interactions among its Member States—for example, with regard to safety and security at chemical plants. Although the OPCW and its verification regime were not designed to detect small-scale production or improvised use of toxic chemicals by terrorists, or to fight terrorism in general, the OPCW and its verification regime offer useful tools for Member States to address this emerging threat.
- ◆ Through its Global Programme on Maritime Security, the **International Maritime Organization** has conducted 68 country needs assessment and advisory missions and 69 national and 51 regional seminars, workshops or courses that have resulted in the training of more than 6,000 persons on methods for ensuring maritime security. These activities aimed to bring awareness to maritime security and other threats through the understanding and implementation of the provisions of the special measures to enhance maritime security (SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code) and have encouraged regional and sub-regional co-operation on counter-terrorism and promoted the prevention of unlawful acts in ports and at sea. Through the Global Programme, IMO continues the promotion of effective implementation of the special measures to enhance maritime security including the continued strengthening of ship and port facility security. It has also conducted 6 regional seminars related to long-range identification and tracking of ships. (IMO has also taken steps to bring together 17 states from the Western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea region to a meeting in Djibouti in January 2009 to address the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia through the adoption of a special code of conduct.)
- ◆ The **International Monetary Fund** has conducted, since early 2002, 61 country assessments on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) capacity. The Fund has provided technical assistance to 222 countries, through national and regional training workshops and tailored capacity building assistance such as drafting of legislation and strengthening of financial sector supervision for AML/CFT. About 2,470 officials have participated in IMF-led workshops over the last five years.
- ◆ The **World Bank** has conducted over 35 assessments – 11 jointly with the IMF – on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance since 2001. Throughout this period, approximately 300 technical assistance missions were performed on a bilateral or regional basis to strengthen all components of an AML/CFT regime. In addition, the World Bank has undertaken 14 bilateral remittance corridor analyses that offer sending and receiving countries new information on the characteristics of remittance flows. This information provides the basis for policy reviews to promote increased flows at lower costs, while enabling better compliance with AML/CFT standards. The World Bank has also conducted a study on the AML/CFT risks of mobile phone technology for financial services, called Integrity in Mobile Phone Financial Services, and is preparing another for release later this year. It will release a series of issues papers, many of which are specific to terrorism financing, in the coming months of 2009. Topics include: Hawala-type Informal Transfer Systems, Improving International Cooperation in Counter-Terrorist Financing, The Risks of New

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Technologies in Terrorism Financing, Non-Profit Organisations and Terrorism Financing Regulation, Analysis of Current Approaches to Terrorist Financing and Laundering the Proceeds of Public Sector Corruption.

- ◆ The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** provides frameworks supporting human rights-based approaches to education, learning materials and curricula to promote inclusive pedagogies and diversified content. Inter-university solidarity, understanding and dialogue are promoted through the network of 550 UNESCO Chairs, the Global Learning Portal and the UNITWIN programme, which provides opportunities for young people in all regions. UNESCO has also prepared a code of conduct for scientists to help deter the use of scientific work for terrorist purposes.
- ◆ **\*\*The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)** initiates and coordinates numerous training programmes covering different priority crime areas aimed at enhancing the capacity of States to combat terrorism. To complement the courses, INTERPOL provides corresponding Training Guides, including the “Bio-Terrorism Incident Pre-Planning and Response Guide”. INTERPOL has also developed a Best Practices Guide in Combating Terrorism, available on the CTC website. INTERPOL has conducted five regional workshops on Bioterrorism to date, attended by delegates from over 130 countries and has also carried out five train-the-trainer sessions, which brought together police, health, prosecution and customs, promoting ways to work together, with a further three sessions scheduled for this year. The sessions identify effective strategies for prevention and response, forge sub-regional cooperation and assess the legal authorization for undertaking critical police functions.
- ◆ Apart from the actions taken by Task Force entities in their individual capacity, CTITF members have also pursued efforts collectively through **working groups** on ‘**Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT)**’ and ‘**Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets.**’ The activities of these Working Groups include assisting interested Member States in implementing the Strategy in an integrated manner; and applied research on the development of public-private partnerships for the protection of vulnerable targets, aimed at identifying relevant practices and experiences that could guide future actions of Member States willing to enhance the level of public-private cooperation in the protection of vulnerable targets.

## Defending human rights while combating terrorism

*Under the fourth pillar of the Strategy,, Member States commit themselves to adopt measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. They also pledge to take measures aimed at addressing violations of human rights and to ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with their human rights obligations.*

- ◆ The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** advocates the promotion and protection of all human rights and the implementation of effective counter-terrorism measures as complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives. The High Commissioner is mandated to prepare analytical reports, position papers and provide general support to relevant rule of law activities of UN human rights bodies including the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. OHCHR provided advice on various UN agencies’ documents and contribute to the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the UN system through the integration of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The Office provides assistance and advice to Member States on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, including the development of human rights-compliant anti-terrorism legislation and policy. OHCHR is promoting strengthened protection of human rights through leadership and advocacy, providing technical assistance and training, and developing tools to assist practitioners. The Office has focused on deepening the understanding of international human rights obligations in the context of terrorism through focused research and analysis, in particular a fact sheet on human rights, terrorism and counter-terrorism. OHCHR is also in the process of organizing regional seminars on human rights and counter-terrorism, updating the Digest of Jurisprudence of the United Nations and Regional Organizations on the Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism and developing a fact sheet on the relationship between international humanitarian law and human rights law.
- ◆ The **Special Rapporteur** on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, operating under the new Human Rights Council, works to identify, exchange and promote best practices on measures to counter terrorism that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Special Rapporteur also addresses allegations of human rights violations in the course of countering terrorism. He conducts visits to selected individual

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countries and has engaged in correspondence with more than 40 countries about their law and practice. He reports regularly both to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly, including on selected thematic issues and his country visits.

In order to facilitate the dissemination of information on human rights concerns and best practice examples on the protection of human rights in the context of counter-terrorism, an online terrorism portal, "The Lift" has been created. It gathers up-to-date information on these topics at <http://legalift.wordpress.com> and is autonomously administered by the Special Rapporteur's research assistant at the European University Institute.

- ◆ The **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** has worked to identify and promote relevant experiences and practices in the field of witness protection, with a specific focus on the persons who participate or who have participated in terrorist or organized criminal groups as well as on victims of terrorism. Activities aim at improving skills of public prosecutors and other relevant investigating officials to optimize the use of information provided by witnesses in accordance with the right of defense and to promote appropriate approaches to victims of terrorism.
- ◆ Apart from the actions taken by Task Force entities in their individual capacity, CTITF members have also pursued efforts collectively through a **working group** on **'Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism.'** The activities of the Working Group include the development of practical tools, which will be aimed at providing clear guidance as to how Member States can adopt human rights compliant measures in the context of counter-terrorism in ten specific areas.

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*\*The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force includes representatives from: the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Public Information (DPI), the Department for Safety and Security (DSS), the Expert Staff of the 1540 Committee, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Monitoring Group of the 1267 Committee, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO). In its planning and coordinating work, the Task Force goes beyond the wider UN system to include other entities, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).*

*\*\*While INTERPOL is not part of the UN system, it is a member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) which was established in 2005 and is chaired by the Office of the UN Secretary-General.*

(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](http://www.un.org/terrorism). For detailed information on the activities of CTITF working groups please visit: <http://www.un.org/terrorism/cttaskforce.shtml>