

# UN ACTION TO COUNTER TERRORISM

May 2007

Fact Sheet

## Implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

*The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006. This marks the first time that Member States have agreed to a comprehensive, global strategic framework to counter terrorism. The strategy spells out concrete measures for Member States to take individually as well as collectively to: **address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthen their individual and collective capacity to do so, and to protect human rights and uphold the rule of law while countering terrorism.** The strategy calls for Member States to work 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 strategy both in their individual capacity and through joint efforts in the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)\*:*

### Coordination and cooperation

The **Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force\***, established in 2005 by the Secretary-General, 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 developed a programme of work and established working groups to carry forward a first set of initiatives to implement the strategy. These cover a broad range of aspects of the strategy and include:

- ◆ Assisting Member States in implementing the strategy in an integrated manner;
  - ◆ Factoring counter-terrorism into conflict prevention;
  - ◆ Providing a forum for addressing political and economic exclusion, in particular among youth;
  - ◆ Enhancing technical assistance assessment, delivery and follow-up;
  - ◆ Improving UN coordination in planning the response to a terrorist attack that uses nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological materials;
  - ◆ Bringing together stakeholders and partners to discuss the abuse of the internet for terrorist purposes and identify innovative means to counter it;
  - ◆ Finding ways to meet international standards for countering the financing of terrorism;
  - ◆ Establishing best practices on protecting vulnerable targets – including UN field staff – and creating a mechanism to share experience in this regard;
  - ◆ Assisting countries in strengthening domestic legislation to protect human rights in order to comply with international standards; and
  - ◆ Bringing together victims from around the world to identify their needs and possible Government responses.
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The Task Force is currently developing **cooperation with a number of regional and sub-regional organizations**, including: the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

## Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

The Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General, in providing mediation support and backstopping the **Department of Political Affairs**, have helped to facilitate peace agreements in 13 conflicts around the world since 2001. The Department's recently established Mediation Support Unit and the Peacebuilding Support Office will further enhance the United Nations peacemaking and peacebuilding capacity.

**The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** promotes dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, including inter-religious and inter-faith dialogue, by fostering quality education, cross-cultural journalist networks and training in intercultural mediation. The UNESCO Culture of Peace programme assists civil society organizations in denouncing terrorist acts as inexcusable.

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 organizes a series of seminars entitled "Unlearning Intolerance," aimed at examining different manifestations of intolerance, as well as exploring means to promote respect and understanding among peoples. The five seminars held so far focused on: confronting anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, the role of the media in "fanning the flame of tolerance," preventing genocide and the role of political cartoonists.

## Preventing and combating terrorism

**Sixteen universal legal instruments** (including 11 conventions, four protocols and one amendment) 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 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** are responsible for monitoring implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and 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 is completing preliminary assessments of implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which calls on all countries to enact measures to prevent terrorist acts, and providing recommendations for improvements. The Committee has also conducted visits to 15 Member States and is planning visits to another 18.

Under the **Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime**, the Security Council requires all states to impose sanctions on individuals and entities listed as associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban wherever located. As of April 2007, 362 individuals and 125 entities have been placed on that list by the Security Council and as a result of the sanctions measures, over \$90 million in financial assets of those listed have been frozen by 34 States. The **Monitoring Team**, which assists the Security Council in promoting implementation of the sanctions regime, has so far compiled six analytical reports assessing the changing nature of the threat posed by Al Qaida and the Taliban and the best measures to confront it. The Team has visited 72 Member States to discuss how to improve the sanctions regime, and has agreed cooperation with 24 international and regional bodies. It has also established four regional groups of intelligence and security agencies from various countries to provide further advice and proposals for the Security Council's consideration.

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The **Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its experts** have examined reports from 136 Member States (with 85 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) has commenced the first phase of establishing a single comprehensive Bio-incident Database mandated by the strategy. The Database will store detailed information on all reported events (biological incidents) in which a biological agent harms or threatens to harm humans, livestock, or agricultural assets. It will also include information on all related reported hoaxes. Consultations on the scope of the Database with interested Member States have taken place. The Office also maintains the roster of experts and laboratories for the Secretary-General's investigation mechanism on alleged use of biological weapons. In early 2007, ODA has sent a request to all Member States to provide an up-dated list of qualified experts and laboratories and proposals are now in train to conduct a full review of the technical guidelines and procedures for such an investigation.

The **International Civil Aviation Organization** develops treaties, international standards and recommended practices as well as guidance material to protect aircraft, airports and other air navigation facilities. It has performed security audits in 159 member States as of 31 March 2007, and coordinated assistance to resolve deficiencies identified during the audits. It also addresses the security of travel documents and the rationalization of border clearance systems and procedures.

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 Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** has collected data from the 25 countries of the Euro-Asian region on national strategies to combat illicit trafficking of chemical, biological radiological or nuclear material and has produced an assessment report and country profiles that identified gaps and best practice in the national strategies to combat illicit trafficking in those materials.

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 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.

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\*\* *The **International Criminal Police Organization** (Interpol) has assisted the UN Security Council with the implementation of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime by circulating information to law enforcement authorities worldwide. Interpol collects, stores, analyses and exchanges information about suspected individuals and groups and their activities; co-ordinates the circulation of alerts and warnings on terrorists and has issued practical guidelines to help the global law enforcement community report terrorist activity.*

## **Building state capacity to counter 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 125 countries in becoming parties to and implementing the universal instruments related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity building. The Office has provided legislative advice on counter-terrorism issues to over 80 countries. The Office has also developed (or is in the process of developing) more than a dozen technical assistance tools, including legislative databases and model legislation, aimed at assisting countries in strengthening their legal regimes against terrorism. The Office continues 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 Office moreover assists Member States in building criminal justice systems in accordance with the rule of law and human rights standards.

The **Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate** has identified and prioritized the technical assistance needs of over 90 Member States and has referred these 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).

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 Department, Interpol and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are also working together to develop emergency response capacity for security threats, including terrorism.

The **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** has provided support to numerous Member States engaged in the security preparations of major events such as the Olympic Games and other large-scale sporting events, high-level summits and mass events. It has also provided training to security planners from 17 Latin American countries, while in Europe it has promoted the development of an integrated research area on major event security. In addition, UNICRI has developed a number of technical tools in support of national policy-makers and security planners.

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

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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 conform 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. It is continuing its efforts, within its mandate, to assist States to build capacity to prevent terrorists from acquiring chemical materials, to ensure security at related facilities, and to respond effectively in the case of attack using such materials. The OPCW has inventoried and secured over 71,000 metric tonnes of chemical agents and all former chemical weapons production facilities in the world have been inactivated.

Through the Global Programme on Maritime Security, the **International Maritime Organization** has conducted 41 country advisory missions, a total of 27 national and 55 regional seminars, workshops or courses and trained approximately 4,400 people on methods for ensuring maritime security.

The **International Monetary Fund** has conducted, since early 2002, 58 country assessments on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) capacity. The Fund has provided technical assistance to 158 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 1,900 officials have participated in IMF-led workshops over the last five years.

The **World Bank** has conducted 31 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 275 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 12 studies on bilateral remittance corridors which provide sender and receiving countries with new information on remittance, particularly on the incentives environment that determine characteristics of the flows. This information provides the basis for review of policies to promote increased flows at lower costs, while enabling better compliance with AML/CFT standards.

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** provides learning materials and curricula to promote inclusive pedagogies and diversified content, and promotes inter-university solidarity and dialogue 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, and 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”.*

## Defending human rights while combating terrorism

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 Office provides assistance and advice to Member States, upon their request, on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, including the development of human rights-compliant anti-terrorism legislation and policy. The Office has focused on deepening the understanding of international human rights obligations in

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the context of terrorism through focused research and analysis, promoting strengthened protection of human rights through leadership and advocacy, providing technical assistance and training, and developing tools to assist practitioners.

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 countries and has engaged in correspondence with more than 30 countries about their law and practice.

The **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** has provided training on 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, for public prosecutors and other relevant investigating officials from 19 Latin American countries. Training activities aim at improving skills 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.

\* *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).

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