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Joint Special Meeting on “The nexus between international terrorism and organized crime”

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Mr. Masood Karimipour, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC

International Framework

- Increasing concern of international community regarding the links between transnational organized crime and terrorism:
  - Security Council resolution 2462 (2019)
  - Presidential statement of 8 May 2018 (S/PRST/2018/9)
  - General Assembly resolution 72/194 (2017)
  - Security Council resolution 2195 (2014)
  - Amongst others

Potential Links

- Organized criminal groups increasingly using terrorist tactics
- Terrorists benefiting from transnational organized crime, including:
  - illicit trafficking of arms, persons, drugs, and cultural property
  - illicit trade in natural resources - precious metals, minerals, wildlife, charcoal and oil
  - kidnapping for ransom, extortion, and bank robbery

Potential Links

- UNODC work and research at the regional level identifies many examples of these links
  - manifesting themselves in different ways across different regions
  - links often opportunistic and evolving

UNODC Response

- UNODC requested by various UN resolutions to support States to address links between organized crime and terrorism

- UNODC addressing in holistic way, not in isolation

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UNODC Response

- UNODC well placed, as entrusted with promoting:
  - conventions on transnational organized crime, corruption and drugs
  - international instruments against terrorism
  - UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice
- Draws on years of experience in building capacity and in supporting international cooperation

Regional and international cooperation

- UNODC supporting regional and international cooperation in criminal matters across mandate, responding to transnational nature of threats

- Promoting:
  - networks of central authorities and prosecutors
  - regional information sharing platforms

Supporting law enforcement

- Supporting law enforcement agencies to:
  - collaborate on intelligence-based investigations of terrorism and organized crime
  - identify, investigate and intercept illicit movements of goods
- For example, supporting efforts to prevent illicit trafficking of charcoal, identified as funding source for Al-Shabaab

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Illicit Financial Flows

- Addressing money laundering, terrorism financing and disrupting illicit financial flows of terrorism and organized crime groups - important element in countering links

- UNODC providing training and mentoring on cross-border cooperation, asset freezing, investigation, prosecution and adjudication globally

Illicit Trafficking in Firearms

- Illicitly trafficked firearms as funding source for terrorist and criminal groups and for commission of terrorist acts
- UNODC supporting States to:
  - strengthen national firearms control regimes and promote international cooperation
  - to prevent and combat diversion of arms, and their illicit manufacturing and trafficking

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Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property

- UNODC has been working with UNESCO and others to address trafficking in cultural property and artefacts

- UNODC developed Practical Assistance Tool to support implementation of *International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property*

Trafficking in Persons

- UNODC supporting States and UN System to address trafficking in persons in conflict situations (in accordance with S.Res 2331 & 2388)
  - Trafficking part of strategic objectives of certain terrorist groups and instrument to increase finances
  - In Niger, helping identify and protect child trafficking victims recruited by extremist groups
  - Developed thematic paper on “Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations” as resource for UN System

Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism
Foreign Terrorist Fighters

- UNODC supporting States to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism
- Including addressing problem of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and families.
  - Combating illegal production of documents, smuggling activities, & other criminal acts to facilitate movement of FTFs.
  - Assisting States to effectively prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate returning FTFs
- UNODC coordinating with UN entities, including UNOCT, CTED, and UNDP

Prisons

- Prisons another potential link between crime and terrorism
  - vulnerable prisoners, jailed for criminal offences, at risk of being radicalised
- UNODC promoting prison reform and effective management of all prisoners, including violent extremist prisoners.

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Anti-Corruption

- Corruption can impact effectiveness of state responses to combat terrorist and criminal operations, i.e. preventing illicit movement of goods
- UNODC supporting anti-corruption efforts globally

Integrated Response

- UNODC delivering assistance in integrated manner with training packages tailored to needs at national and regional levels.

Education 4 Justice

- UNODC recently produced a module on the linkages between Organized Crime and Terrorism
  - Developed to support university-level academics to teach on this important topic

Remaining Vulnerabilities

1. Uneven implementation of international instruments on organized crime, terrorism and corruption, and harmonization of national legislation
2. Insufficient inter-agency cooperation nationally, regionally and globally on intelligence sharing and in developing coordinated criminal justice response
3. Further need for criminal justice capacity on specialized issues
4. Further investment in research to better understand regional and global trends