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UNOCT 2024 inputs – Resolution 79/42-Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

Work of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (hereinafter, Counter-Terrorism Compact) led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) has continued to strengthen the coordination and coherence of the United Nations system to support Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. In 2024, the Counter-Terrorism Compact welcomed its newest member, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), making the Counter-Terrorism Compact one of the largest coordination frameworks within the United Nations with 46 UN and non-UN entities as members or observers.

The eight Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups held 40 meetings, including regular quarterly meetings and discussions on specific topics, to facilitate in-depth thematic briefings, exchange of information on best practices, joint research, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, and capacity-building.

The digital Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Platform, maintained by UNOCT, has continued to provide a virtual forum where over 1,050 focal points of 46 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, 137 Member States and 14 regional organizations collaborate and share information.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection continued to promote coordination and coherence, and held four quarterly meetings (14 March, 18 June, 4 October, 19 December) in 2024, addressing a range of critical topics, including advancing chemical emergency response exercises in Africa and supporting the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention. Thematic discussions explored pressing issues such as weapons of mass destruction (WMD) financing and proliferation risks; regional threats; chemical security; and initiatives to safeguard critical infrastructure. The Working Group's Chair, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and Vice-Chairs (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA); United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); and the World Customs Organization (WCO) continued to engage with the 1540 Group of Experts in order to explore opportunities for supporting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The 1540 Committee Group of Experts was invited to all Working Group meetings, and this dialogue will continue in 2025 with the view to organize a thematic briefing or other activity under the Working Group in support of the implementation of the aforementioned resolution.

Work of the Office of the Counter-Terrorism and its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

In 2024, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism continued to deliver a broad range of outreach and capacity-building support at the global, regional, and national levels, further enhancing the ability of Member States to counter terrorist use of weapons. Through its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and its ongoing Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons, UNOCT reached over 650 officials from more than 40 Member States. The support provided to Member States focused on countering threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, small arms and light weapons, improvised explosive devices, and unmanned aircraft systems, as well as strengthening regional and international cooperation to further enhance international security frameworks.

As part of a broader range of activities in partnership with the United States of America to strengthen chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive terrorism response capabilities, UNOCT convened: 1) a regional workshop and a table-top exercise for [Central Asian](#) Member States in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 4-7 March; 2) for [South and Southeast Asian](#) Member States in Bangkok, Thailand from 9-12 July; and 3) for North African Member States in Cairo, Egypt from 2-5 December. These workshops aimed to enhance regional cooperation and understanding of the tools needed for effective responses to threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, and were preceded and followed by virtual seminars to evaluate skills gained. Additionally, a dedicated briefing on strengthening Member States' capacities for South and Southeast Asian Member States was held in May in New York.

As part of efforts to enhance security along the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and combat the illegal trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism provided [equipment and a dedicated training to the border troops of Tajikistan](#) in Dushanbe from 9-10 October. The training focused on best practices to respond to suspicious radiation incidents and secure nuclear and radiological materials.

Additionally, in support of effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, organized two regional workshops and table-top exercises, "[Steppe Lotus](#)" in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 16-18 April, and "[Glowing Tulip 2.0](#)" in the Hague, the Netherlands from 23-26 April, to simulate nuclear terrorism investigations and strengthen legal frameworks to combat chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism.

On 7 November, UNOCT, in partnership with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, held a table-top exercise in Washington D.C., USA, which brought together key stakeholders to enhance national and regional responses to a terrorist attack using chemical materials.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism further enhanced the capacities of authorities in Iraq to prevent and respond to biological terrorist attacks by conducting a first in a series of train-the-trainer courses, focusing on countering [basic and intermediate biological threats](#), held in Amman, Jordan from 9-12 December.

These activities were made possible through close cooperation with regional and international organizations, including the European Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Police Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, reinforcing global efforts to counter the evolving threats posed by the terrorist use of weapons.