



Report by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) on measures taken to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

(Resolution 77/75)

Through its individual programmes and projects, UNICRI is committed to preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Below are some of the key results from the 2022 period from the wide range of action-oriented research and needs-based initiatives that UNICRI implements. With the support and cooperation of partner countries and international organizations, UNICRI plans to continue contributing to global efforts to reduce the risk posed by weapons of mass destruction.

The European Union (EU) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative

UNICRI is the implementing partner of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. The Initiative, which is funded by the European Union, supports 64 partner countries in eight regions. Eight regional secretariats play a direct role in capacity building by facilitating regional projects that are establishing more robust and sustainable CBRN communities and practices.

In 2022, the EU CBRN CoE Initiative has helped to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction by:

- Creating strong legislation in partner countries to serve as a deterrent to terrorists. For example, Tajikistan adopted its Biosafety and Biosecurity Law based on the recommendations of the project “Strengthening the National Legal Framework and Provision of Specialized Training on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Central Asian and South-East and Eastern European Countries”.
- Establishing the first Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) African master’s programme. The first round of the Master saw the participation of 25 trainees from eight partner countries. The second round will conclude by mid 2023.
- Publishing *A Prosecutor’s Guide to Chemical and Biological Crimes*. This Guide aims to provide prosecutors, and relevant investigative agencies, with guidance to support the successful prosecution of incidents involving the deliberate acquisition, production, transfer or use of chemical or biological agents. *A Prosecutor’s Guide to Radiological and Nuclear Crimes* is scheduled to be published by the end of 2023.

The Contact programme

Through the Contact programme, UNICRI has been supporting countries from the Middle East, the Black Sea and Southeast Asia to improve the capabilities of state security and law enforcement officials to devise, plan and carry out intelligence operations to thwart radiological and nuclear trafficking attempts. In 2022, UNICRI successfully held the final event of Contact Middle East entitled “Regional



Radiological and Nuclear Detection and Response Table-Top Exercise” with the participation of the State authorities in charge of countering radiological and nuclear trafficking in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

The Atlas project

The Atlas project aims to prevent non-state actors from planning and carrying out chemical weapons attacks by developing and implementing training programmes in Morocco and Tunisia with a focus on intelligence-led operations and investigations. UNICRI has already carried out missions to both partner countries to identify their needs and is planning to implement train-the-trainer courses in the final quarter of 2023.

Strengthening Capacities to Identify and Mitigate CBRN Proliferation Financing Risks in Southeast Asia

Through the project “Strengthening Capacities to Identify and Mitigate CBRN Proliferation Financing Risks in Southeast Asia”, UNICRI intends to improve understanding of CBRN proliferation financing risks and to enhance awareness of and compliance with international standards and sanctions. To date, UNICRI has held awareness-raising workshops in Cambodia, the Philippines and Lao People’s Democratic Republic as part of the project.

CBRN disinformation

In the last three years, UNICRI has been monitoring the malicious use of social media and analysing existing technology options to detect and debunk false information. In response to Member States’ request for assistance, UNICRI began a process of capacity building for CBRN stakeholders and developed training materials, including the “Handbook to combat CBRN disinformation” that has been designed for individuals or agencies working in CBRN risk mitigation at different levels (<https://unicri.it/News/Hanbook-to-combat-disinformation>).