UNODC inputs to the SG report on “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, pursuant to A/RES/77/75

A. **Promotion of adherence to and effective implementation of international legal instruments**

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) promotes adherence to and effective implementation of international legal instruments that help prevent and suppress, among other things, terrorist acts using weapons of mass destruction. The Office carries out this work in accordance with its mandate conferred by the UN General Assembly, primarily within the framework of three projects: on promoting the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT); on supporting the universalization of international legal frameworks related to nuclear security, including ICSANT, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment; and on building a repository of national legislation for implementing the criminalization provisions of the two Conventions and one Amendment.

- In the reporting period, the Office carried out several technical assistance activities in implementing those projects. Examples include activities for the effective implementation of ICSANT, such as tabletop exercises and national, regional and international workshops in support of its universalization. The Office also organized a mock trial and legislative assistance via desk reviews of national legislation and legislative drafting workshops with regards to the Convention.

- UNODC developed and promoted tools and resources related to the international legal framework against chemical, biological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism. In June 2022, the Office launched a new eLearning module on ICSANT and continued to use its training module on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism in technical assistance activities, as well as a manual on fictional cases related to ICSANT. All the materials were translated into the six UN official languages, and some of them also in Portuguese, and are available on the Office’s regularly updated website dedicated to the Convention. Among other resources, the website contains submissions from 51 States Parties to ICSANT related to their respective legislations on the implementation of the Convention’s criminalization provisions.

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1 Most recently reiterated in 74/175 of 18 December 2019, operative para. 20, by which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, within its mandate, to develop its specialized knowledge of the international legal framework for combating chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism as enshrined in the conventions and protocols on terrorism in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in preventing and countering those forms of terrorism.

2 Funded by the European Union and jointly implemented with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.

3 Funded by Canada.

4 Funded by Canada.

5 For officials in Member States from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Pacific.
• To mark the occasion of 15th anniversary since the entry into force of ICSANT, the Office organized a high-level event in December 2022 (co-hosted with Canada and the European Union). The event gathered representatives of Member States of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and provided an opportunity to take stock of the status of adherence to this legal instrument, to showcase national experiences and the Office’s work and achievements to date, and to chart the future of promoting the Convention and strengthening the global nuclear security architecture.

B. Countering the proliferation financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

• In December 2022, under the framework of its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC made available on its Global eLearning Platform four eLearning modules related to countering the financing of the proliferation of WMD:

  • The module on the ‘Basics of Countering the Financing of the Proliferation of WMD’ provides information on how proliferation financing networks operate, what the main indicators of proliferation financing activity are, and the role of national measures such as financial supervision and expert controls in countering proliferation financing.


  • The module on ‘Measures to Counter Proliferation Financing’ contains measures that governments and private sector entities should take to enhance their counter proliferation financing frameworks.

  • The module on the ‘Introduction to Financial Disruption – Targeting Proliferation Financing’ outlines Member States’ good practices into a practical framework which can maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of financial disruption strategies against criminal and proliferation financing networks.

• During the reporting period, UNODC continued to provide capacity building training on countering proliferation financing of WMD. Examples include:

  • The Office’s participation as a panellist in an online conference organized by King’s College London to consult on the FATF Guidance on Proliferation Finance Risk Assessment and Mitigation,6 prior to its publication in June 2021.

  • The delivery of a three-day webinar on countering proliferation financing to a private sector audience in Indonesia and an additional webinar for financial regulators, reporting entities and other related institutions.

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• UNODC’s participation as a panellist in a regional workshop on proliferation financing risk assessment in West Africa organized by the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), the FATF-Style Regional Body in West Africa.

• Four inter-agency training courses, focused on the prevention, detection, investigation and disruption of proliferation financing activities, delivered in 2022 in three jurisdictions nationally and to 11 jurisdictions in Eastern and Southern Africa during a regional event.

• From the end of 2021 and through to the third quarter of 2022, UNODC provided normative assistance to the Government of Uganda to update the country’s Anti-Terrorism Act (2002) to criminalize proliferation financing. The new law was passed in September 2022.