UNODC’s inputs to the SG report on “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” pursuant to A/RES/78/43

Promoting the implementation of international legal instruments against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by the General Assembly\(^1\) to promote the universalization and effective implementation of seven international legal instruments against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism. The effective incorporation of the provisions of these instruments into Member States’ national legislation is also instrumental in fulfilling relevant obligations set forth by Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. Through its work in this area, mainly conducted within the framework of projects funded by Canada and the European Union (EU), UNODC has raised awareness of these instruments among Member States and strengthened their capacity to implement them at the national level.

In 2023, UNODC carried out a wide range of outreach and technical assistance activities. UNODC conducted a regional workshop addressed to criminal justice officials from South-Eastern European States to strengthen their capacities to effectively implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). The Office also held two regional workshops on promoting the universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT for Pacific countries and South-East Asian countries, respectively. Additionally, the Office conducted workshops on resolution 1540 (2004) in a border context in Botswana, Panama, and Zambia.

UNODC co-organized, together with the Netherlands, Romania, Tajikistan, the United States of America, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), a table-top exercise aimed at identifying and demonstrating effective regional and international cooperation mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting radiological and nuclear crimes.

The Office also supported ICSANT’s universalization and effective implementation by holding national workshops and country visits in Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, the Maldives, Mauritius, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Zimbabwe.

In September in Vienna and in October in New York, UNODC, in cooperation with the EU and UNOCT, launched the new EU project “Union Support for the Universalisation and Effective Implementation of ICSANT”. To ensure the sustainability of its efforts to promote the universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT over the previous years, the Office carried out four regional online workshops under this new project, targeting English-

\(^1\) This mandate was most recently reiterated in A/RES/78/226 of 22 December 2023, paragraph 24, which requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, within its mandate, to develop its specialized knowledge of the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism as enshrined in the relevant conventions and protocols in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in the effective legal, operational and technical implementation of these instruments, including through capacity-building.
speaking and French-speaking African countries, Pacific countries, and South-East Asian countries that are not yet party to ICSANT.

UNODC also held a national seminar on ICSANT in Montenegro, the first in a series of capacity-building activities for States parties’ judicial and prosecution training centres.

On the margins of the 67th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNODC conducted jointly with the IAEA a side event on the role of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) and ICSANT in strengthening nuclear security globally.

UNODC continued to promote and disseminate tools and resources related to the international legal framework against CBRN terrorism (including eLearning modules, training manuals, and factsheets), all of which are available in the six UN official languages (some also in Portuguese) and are featured in the UNODC ICSANT website, as well as on the UNODC CBRN webpage. Among other resources, UNODC continued to collect and publish information on national legislation adopted by States parties to give effect to the criminalization provisions of ICSANT, and to develop a repository of national legislation for implementing the criminalization provisions of ICSANT, CPPNM, and A/CPPNM.

During the reporting period, UNODC continued to cooperate and strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders and contributed to numerous events organized by the IAEA, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (1540 Committee), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UNOCT and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). UNODC also took part in a number of civil society (and other) initiatives organized by the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICSIS), the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), and the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, inter alia.

Countering the proliferation financing of weapons of mass destruction

UNODC continued to provide capacity-building training on countering weapons of mass destruction proliferation financing by:

- Delivering four-day inter-agency training courses on how to detect, investigate, analyse, and disrupt proliferating financing in Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, and Türkiye (online) throughout 2023.
- Delivering a four-day inter-agency training course on the foundations of countering proliferation financing in Papua New Guinea.
- Conducting one regional workshop in cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force to raise awareness of proliferation financing among its members to help them understand what proliferation financing is, the international regime to counter proliferation financing regarding state-sponsored and non-state proliferation activity, how proliferation networks operate, the main
typologies and red flags that governments and financial institutions must be aware of in order to detect proliferation financing activities, the importance of adopting a risk-based approach, and challenges and best practices in conducting proliferation financing-related investigations.

- Conducting a two-day webinar in cooperation with MONEYVAL to assist its members in understanding the international legal framework and international standards on countering proliferation financing. This also included assisting members in developing effective risk assessment frameworks to help them effectively identify and mitigate their proliferation financing risks. The webinar also discussed red flag indicators and typologies relevant to the region.

- Hosting two Expert Group Meetings in Vienna, Austria, on disrupting proliferation financing, where representatives of national agencies involved in the investigation and enforcement of countering proliferation financing mechanisms exchanged information relevant to proliferation financing cases and shared best practices to counter proliferation financing risks. Participants from the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, as well as INTERPOL, contributed to the discussion, in addition to private sector companies that explained how data-focused solutions can help governments enhance their capabilities to counter proliferation financing.