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STUDY GUIDE

SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Measures to eliminate international terrorism
Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution [50/53](#), as read together with Assembly resolution [77/113](#), on measures to eliminate international terrorism. Sections II.A and II.B of the report contain information, based on submissions from Governments and international organizations, on measures taken at the national and international levels. A list of relevant international legal instruments is provided in section III.

* A/78/159.



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of [General Assembly resolution 50/53](#), as read together with paragraph 24 of Assembly resolution 77/113.
2. States were requested to submit, by 1 June 2023, information on the implementation of paragraphs 10 (a) and (b) of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to General Assembly resolution 49/60, and were alerted to the fact that late submissions would be included in the next reporting cycle, as appropriate. Section II.A below contains a summary of the replies received. Previous submissions received from Member States since 2015 are referred to as appropriate; no indication is made where no submission had been received from a Member State since 2015.
3. Relevant specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations were also invited to submit, by 1 June 2023, information or other pertinent material on the implementation of paragraph 10 (a) of the Declaration. Section II.B below contains a summary of the replies received.
4. The summaries of the replies focus on the matters referred to in paragraphs 10 (a) and (b) of the Declaration, namely: (a) collection of data on the status and implementation of existing multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements relating to international terrorism, including information on incidents caused by international terrorism and criminal prosecutions and sentencing; and (b) national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The full texts of the replies received, including any received after 1 June 2023, are available from the website of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.¹

II. Measures taken at the national and international levels regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism, and information on incidents caused by international terrorism

Information received from Member States

A. [Algeria](#)

5. In addition to providing previous information ([A/73/125](#), paras. 5–7; [A/74/151](#), paras. 5–7; [A/75/176](#), paras. 5–7; [A/76/201](#), paras. 5 and 6; and [A/77/185](#), paras. 5–8), Algeria reported that it had adopted important initiatives to give effect to Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2199 \(2015\)](#).
6. Algeria had adopted amendments to counter-terrorism legislation with regard to terrorist financing. For example, Act No. 05-01 of 6 February 2005 regulating the crime of [money-laundering and terrorist financing](#) had been supplemented by Act No. 23-01 of 7 February 2023. Under the amendment, new elements had been introduced regarding terrorist financing; and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and entities that can be abused for the financing of terrorism were regulated. Moreover, under the new act, a committee had been created to implement Security Council resolutions on targeted financial sanctions in relation

¹ www.un.org/en/ga/sixth.

1 Did you know that...

General Assembly Resolution 50/53 does indeed urge States not only to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, but also to take the necessary steps to implement their obligations under the existing international conventions while further developing international law on the matter.

5 Did you know that...

Algeria's security policy had been focused on domestic stability for decades and after the brutal Civil War that broke out in the 1990s between the Government and several Islamist groups. The country's attitude towards security changed substantially after the emergence of Al Qaeda in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). The terrorist organization, particularly active in the northern coastal area of Algeria as well as in the Sahel, conducted some high-casualty attacks in the country. Since then, Algeria became gradually more involved in multinational coordinated efforts to counter terrorism through participation in international, multilateral and regional organizations.

6 Something to think about

Among the factors that can contribute to the risk of Money Laundering (ML), Algerian authorities pointed out the excessive use of cash in Algeria and the informal sector used for financial transactions across borders. Algeria's banking sector's assets make up over 95% of the total assets of the financial sector. However, banks present a non-unified and often poor understanding of ML-related risks.

to terrorism, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Armenia

7.

In addition to the information provided previously (A/71/182, paras. 11–17; A/74/151, paras. 11–15; A/76/201, paras. 7–10; and A/77/185, paras. 12–15), Armenia provided detailed information on counter-terrorism-related legislation that had been previously reported. Moreover, Armenia reported that on 4 March 2022, it had ratified the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, signed at Riga on 22 October 2015. The Additional Protocol had entered into force in Armenia on 1 September 2022.

8. Armenia had adopted a number of legislative acts to facilitate the effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions. On 26 June 2018, the Chair of the Central Bank of Armenia had approved a regulation on the listing of terrorist persons and entities and guidance on the freezing of property of persons and entities related to terrorism or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. On 2 December 2014, the Chair had approved rules of procedures for delisting and unfreezing. Colombia

9.

In addition to providing previous information (A/69/209, paras. 6–10; A/70/211, paras. 12–15; A/72/111, paras. 12 and 13; A/75/176, paras. 24–30; A/76/201, paras. 17–22; and A/77/185, paras. 19–24), Colombia reported that it had put in place a network of law enforcement authorities responsible for countering terrorism. Colombia had achieved significant results in its efforts to combat terrorism through the establishment of joint investigation teams and the implementation of special investigative techniques. Cuba

10. In addition to providing previous information (A/66/96, paras. 17–19; A/67/162, paras. 10 and 11; A/68/180, paras. 12–15; A/69/209, paras. 11–15; A/70/211, paras. 16–21; A/71/182, paras. 27–31; A/72/111, paras. 14–17; A/73/125, paras. 13–16; A/74/151, paras. 35–39; A/75/176, paras. 31–40; A/76/201, paras. 23–28; and A/77/185, paras. 25–30), Cuba reported that it had signed 15 cooperation agreements with other countries on counter-terrorism and had established a broad national regulatory framework for preventing and combating the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

11. Cuba had intensified its judicial cooperation with other countries and had signed, in total, 35 agreements on the transfer of convicted persons, 32 agreements on extradition and 40 agreements on legal assistance, with 52 countries. Furthermore, the Office of the Attorney General had signed with its counterparts in other countries 21 bilateral cooperation agreements aimed at strengthening cooperation in preventing and combating crime, in particular transnational organized crime, terrorism, corruption, economic crime, drug trafficking, the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of persons.

12. The International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons had conducted safeguards inspections in Cuba in February 2023 and March 2023, respectively. Both inspections had confirmed the strict compliance of Cuba with all its obligations with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and controlled chemical substances, the transparency of the Cuban authorities and ongoing cooperation with international organizations.

7 Something to think about

In his Statement to the UN at the UNGA78 Sixth Committee under the agenda item 109 “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN Mr. Tigran Galstyan expressed concern about the expressions of discrimination and violence that emanate from intolerance and xenophobia, stressing the urgency of curbing the proliferation of hate speech. The rise of hate speech, xenophobia, and polarization have indeed created fertile ground for the recruitment of terrorists. According to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Armenia, this is particularly relevant for those societies, that for decades have been subject to state propaganda of hatred on ethnic and religious grounds and where hate crime perpetrators have been glorified as role models for the young people. What is defined as “dangerous indoctrination” is an early warning sign of the threat of crimes that might be committed against religious and ethnic groups and their heritage. In this sense, Mr. Tigran Galstyan referred to the delicate situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, underlining how Armenia condemns attempts to justify military violence by Azerbaijan that can result in civilian casualties, displacement, and suffering by citing counterterrorism as a pretext. Indeed, such actions not only violate international law and fundamental human rights but also undermine the very principles of justice, peace, and security that counter-terrorism efforts are meant to uphold.

9 Something to think about

In fact, UN experts have recently reported Colombia's misuse of counter-terrorism measures to prosecute individuals for taking part in protests against government policies. The misuse of such measures has the potential to undermine the legitimacy of international counterterrorism frameworks and laws. Considering this, which kind of steps do you think should be taken on a national level to prevent the misuse of counter-terrorism measures?

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Colombia

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Cuba

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10 Did you know that...

Cuban authorities stated that crime rates in Cuba are low and that there are some cases of drug and human trafficking, but that the incidence of these crimes is occasional and linked to international criminals that operate mainly from abroad and try to use Cuba as a country of transit or destination of drugs. Another offense committed by these groups is the forgery of documents for immigration purposes. Moreover, illegal drug activities are mainly linked with drug trafficking operations carried out in the surroundings of Cuba's territorial waters.

13. Cuba had updated the national counter-terrorism strategy in 2022 and an inter-agency commission, chaired by the Vice-President of Cuba, had been established to monitor the implementation of the strategy.

Greece

14. In addition to the information provided previously (A/68/180, paras. 18–21; A/75/176, paras. 55–58; A/76/201, paras. 46 and 47; and A/77/185, paras. 42–45), Greece provided an updated list of the multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements that it had concluded relating to international terrorism.

15. During the reporting period, Greece reported that three individuals had been convicted for offences related to international terrorism. On 20 December 2022, a foreign citizen had been sentenced in the first instance to nine years' imprisonment for a terrorism-related crime associated with that person's participation in a foreign terrorist organization, Da'esh. On 4 March 2022, a foreign citizen had been sentenced in the first instance to life imprisonment for aiding and abetting murder involving terrorist activity and participating in Da'esh. On 6 May 2022, a foreign citizen was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for being an accomplice to the infliction of serious bodily injuries involving terrorist activity and participating in Da'esh.

16. In the same period, no incidents linked to national or international terrorism occurred in Greece.
Qatar

17. In addition to providing previous information (A/66/96, paras. 72–80; and A/68/180, paras. 48–51), Qatar reported that it had ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material on 10 October 2021 and that it was in the process of acceding to other relevant international instruments. Qatar had recorded no criminal acts related to international terrorism.

San Marino

18. In addition to providing previous information (A/73/125, paras. 39–42; A/74/151, paras. 92–94; A/75/176, paras. 96–99; A/76/201, paras. 74 and 75; and A/77/185, paras. 68–71), San Marino reported that it was party to 16 universal and 10 regional counter-terrorism instruments, as well as a number of relevant bilateral instruments. San Marino provided a list of the international instruments that it had ratified.

19. With regard to terrorist financing, San Marino had adopted Act No. 92/2008 to implement Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing, amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Directive 2006/70/EC. In January 2023, San Marino had submitted to the parliament the draft law entitled "Alignment of domestic legislation with international conventions and standards on preventing and combating money-laundering and terrorist financing". The bill was intended to incorporate directives issued by the European Union into domestic legislation.

20. San Marino had signed an agreement with the Government of Italy on 26 May 2021 on issues related to the confiscation of property and assets and was negotiating a similar agreement with Albania. On 24 May 2022, it had ratified an agreement with Italy on the recognition and enforcement of judicial decisions on alternative measures

13 Interesting facts...

In 2021, the US State Department re-added Cuba to the "list of state sponsors of terrorism", accusing the country of hosting member of the Colombian National Liberation Army. The inclusion of Cuba on the list – a list that the European Parliament describes as "illegitimate" – allowed the US to maintain an economic, commercial and financial blockade against the country.

17 Did you know that...

The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment are the main international legal instruments in the field of nuclear security adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The CPPNM entered into force in 1987, and its Amendment significantly strengthened it. Indeed, the Amendment extends the scope of the original treaty to cover the physical protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear material used for peaceful purposes in domestic use, storage and transport and further criminalizes offenses related to the illicit trafficking and sabotage of material or nuclear facilities.

18 Interesting facts...

The ancient Republic of San Marino – one of the smallest countries in the world – has never been the site of terrorist attacks and no individual, group, or entity affiliated or involved in terrorist groups has ever been identified in the country. Despite this, San Marino considers its commitment to conform to international instruments vital for belonging to the international community.

to detention, alternative sanctions to imprisonment, conditional release and suspended sentences, signed on 31 March 2022 in San Marino.

21. With respect to police cooperation, San Marino provided a detailed description of the activities of the National Central Bureau of San Marino in liaison with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and its law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, it had established a working arrangement with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) in September 2021.

Türkiye

22. In addition to providing previous information (A/60/228, paras. 83–87; A/73/125, paras. 54–56; A/75/176, paras. 131–134; A/76/201, para. 103; and A/77/185, paras. 96–99), Türkiye reported that significant legislation regarding countering of the financing of terrorism had been adopted in 2022, for example, General Communiqué No. 21 regarding enhanced customer due diligence measures for politically exposed persons, published in the Official Gazette on 17 November 2022, and its implementation guideline, published on 22 November 2022. On 13 July 2021, Türkiye had published, in the Official Gazette, General Communiqué No. 529, regulating the establishment of a beneficial ownership registry and an audit mechanism, which was subsequently supplemented by General Communiqué No. 541, on 23 September 2022.

23. During the reporting period, Türkiye had effectively implemented Security Council resolutions under **Anti-Money Laundering Council** resolution No. TF-01 (concerning Al-Qaida) and Security Council resolutions **1267 (1999)** and **1988 (2011)**. To give effect to Security Council resolution **1373 (2001)**, Türkiye had frozen, by presidential decrees, the assets of 64 individuals and 14 legal entities. On the basis of requests from other countries, it had further frozen the assets of six individuals.

24. The Turkish Financial Intelligence Unit had signed 59 bilateral memorandums of understanding related to terrorist financing with relevant authorities of foreign countries. Türkiye had continued to effectively use the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units for information-sharing and cooperation in countering the financing of terrorism.

25. Türkiye provided information regarding the number of counter-terrorism operations carried out. In 2021, two law enforcement officials and eight civilians had lost their lives owing to terrorist attacks in Türkiye. In 2022, 113 terrorist acts had been carried out in Türkiye and 151 terrorist acts had been successfully prevented by Turkish law enforcement authorities. In 2022, 17 law enforcement officials and 12 civilians had died as victims of terrorist attacks.

B. Information received from international organizations

Commonwealth of Independent States

26. In addition to providing previous information (A/66/96, para. 125; and A/68/180, para. 96), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) reported that on 15 October 2021, the member States of CIS had signed a treaty on combating the legalization (laundering) of proceeds from crime, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The treaty aimed at strengthening international cooperation, expanding mutual assistance and depriving terrorists of the proceeds of crime and other means used to commit crimes of terrorism. CIS provided information regarding the cooperation framework.

22 Something to think about

Some NGOs, among which Amnesty International, pointed out how the Turkish government exploited and continues to exploit its counterterrorism laws to target human rights defenders, journalists, activists and any other person who opposes government policies.

23 Something to think about

Turkey's strategic position between Europe and Asia, its trade with both continents and its proximity to unstable, war-torn countries complicates the combat of illicit finance. The country indicates drug trafficking, migrant and fuel smuggling, and human trafficking as the crimes that pose the highest money laundering risks. Moreover, Turkey represents a crossroad to smuggle illegal opiates from Afghanistan into Europe (Balkan route) and a corridor for smuggling and trafficking migrants out of Syria and Iran. On top of this, the country is a source of transit for Foreign Terrorist Fighters who seek to join ISIS and other terrorist organizations fighting in Syria and Iraq.

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25 Did you know that...

Erdogan's regime considers the fight against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) – defined as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the US and the EU – and the People's Protection Units (YPG) – considered by Turkey as an affiliate of the PKK – as one of its top security priorities. Starting from 2016, Turkey carried out some military operations on the Syrian territory against both the PKK and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The country's first major operation, called Euphrates Shield, was launched in August 2016 and it lasted until March 2017. Through this operation, Turkey managed to clear the area to the west of the Euphrates both of ISIL and of the YPG. This was followed by the operation Olive Branch conducted in 2018 and the Operation Peace Spring launched in October 2019. The latter drew harsh criticism from the European Union, according to which the operation could result in protracted instability in north-east Syria.

26 Did you know that...

In terms of international cooperation, an important step is represented by the enhancement of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia. Already in 2019, the UN praised the contribution and efforts of the CSTO to strengthen its peacekeeping capacities, to counter terrorism and transnational organized crime.

27. CIS had completed the implementation of the programme of cooperation between CIS member States in the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism for 2020–2022.

28. During 2021 and 2022, CIS had located and detained 93 individuals who had been listed for reasons associated to international terrorism, 77 individuals accused of terrorism had been detained during special operations and 161 individuals had been detained for involvement in the financing of terrorism. Moreover, CIS had seized about 9,500 firearms, more than 308,000 rounds of ammunition, 485 kilograms of explosives and 186 explosive devices.

Council of Europe

29. In addition to providing previous information (A/75/176, paras. 156 and 157; and A/77/185, paras. 118–122), the Council of Europe reported that the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism of 2005 had received 43 ratifications and the Additional Protocol to the Convention of 2015 had had 27 ratifications, as of 11 April 2023.

30. The Council of Europe operated a 24/7 network of contact points on foreign terrorist fighters and a network for the exchange of procedural information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism.

31. During the reporting period, the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Counter-Terrorism had adopted the report on emerging terrorist threats in Europe, had opened formal negotiations on the text of the definition of terrorism in May 2023 and had completed a review of Council of Europe standards for countering financing of terrorism. In addition, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers had approved the new Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023–2027) on 8 February 2023. The Council of Europe provided a description of the new Counter-Terrorism Strategy which envisaged 24 actions aimed at further strengthening national prevention, prosecution and protection capacities for countering terrorism.

32. In the same period, a number of initiatives had been approved. On 30 March 2022, the Committee of Ministers had adopted both Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)8 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on the use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence in criminal proceedings related to terrorist offences and Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)7 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on the risk assessment of individuals indicted or convicted for terrorism offences.

European Union

33.

The European Union reported that it had adopted a number of legislative acts and administrative measures contributing to preventing, combating and eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the European region. On 15 March 2017, for example, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union had adopted Directive (EU) 2017/541 on combating terrorism, which provided definitions of terrorist offences that were in line with Security Council resolutions and the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. In June 2022, the European Union had adopted a regulation aimed at addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online.

34. The European Union provided information on the following policy documents adopted in the field of counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism: the European Union Strategic Compass; the new Council of the European Union Conclusions on protecting Europeans from terrorism; achievements and next steps of 9 June 2022; the Council of the European Union Conclusions on addressing

30 Did you know that...

The 24/7 Network, established according to Article 35 of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, is a critical tool for international cooperation on cybercrime and electronic evidence that facilitates assistance in investigations and proceedings for criminal offences related to computer systems and data.

31 Interesting facts...

The background to the New Strategy is related to the recent developments in the terrorism landscape. In the past few years, Europe has indeed experienced the emergence of the so-called “post-organisational terrorism”, whose main characteristic is the rise of loose networks, small cells and lone actors.

33 Interesting facts...

It is namely after 2015 that the European Union started to adopt more measures to eliminate terrorism. Indeed, in 2015 the EU faced a massive number of terrorist attacks (211 according to EUROPOL). 94% of the individuals tried for jihadist terrorism were found guilty and prosecuted.

34 Something to think about

The Council of the European Union stresses the importance of strengthening cooperation between immigration and asylum authorities and counter-terrorism authorities both at national and European level. Moreover, it invites Member States to issue entry bans on third-country nationals who constitute a security threat.

the external dimension of a constantly evolving terrorist and violent extremist threat, as approved by the Council on 20 June 2022; and A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the European Union: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond, of 9 December 2020. On 27 October 2021, the European Commission had adopted the report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of Directive (EU) 2011/555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

35. The European Union was preparing a revision of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 implementing Article 10 of the United Nations Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UN Firearms Protocol), and establishing export authorization, and import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

36. The European Union emphasized its continued focus on gender-responsive policies on counter-terrorism and on preventing and countering violent extremism and highlighted the decision of the European Union, as co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, to prioritize gender-responsive approaches.

37. The European Union highlighted its efforts with respect to priority countries, its engagement in Afghanistan and South and Central Asia, the role of the European Union in the Global Coalition against Da'esh and the role of the European Union as co-chair for two years of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

38. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) reported that as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, it had a strong mandate to contribute to the global fight against terrorism. In the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, adopted in 2012, which reaffirmed the comprehensive approach of OSCE in the fight against terrorism, strategic focus areas for OSCE counter-terrorism efforts were identified.

39. OSCE provided a detailed account of programme activities undertaken in the fight against terrorism. It had co-organized high-level international conferences on the topics "Regional cooperation of Central Asian countries within the framework of the Joint Action Plan for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" (Tashkent, 3 and 4 March 2022), and "International and regional border security and management cooperation to counter terrorism and prevent the movement of terrorists" (Dushanbe, 18 and 19 October 2022), in light of the current situation in Afghanistan. The Dushanbe conference had concluded with the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration on Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists, which was part of the Dushanbe Process, a series of regional dialogue events that have been taking place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, since 2018. Both conferences fostered regional security dialogue and international partnerships on anti-terrorism issues in line with international human rights.

40. OSCE had organized 11 specialized courses on counter-terrorism for five OSCE participating States from the South-East European and Central Asian regions (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and Tajikistan). OSCE had decided to launch in 2023 a multi-year project entitled "INFORMED: Information and media literacy in preventing violent extremism – human rights and gender-sensitive approaches to addressing the digital information disorder", which would include regions of the OSCE area and Partners for Co-operation.

36 Something to think about

The Global Counterterrorism Forum describes violence, marginalization, and discrimination against women, girls and gender-diverse populations as "one of the most endemic and long-standing categories of political violence in the world". Therefore, the GCTF developed the Gender and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Policy Toolkit, a critical instrument aimed at integrating a gender perspective into strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

39 Something to think about

Participants to the conference underlined the importance of prevention, education, youth empowerment, human rights, and the inclusion of civil society in building resilience. The issues raised during the conference as well as its location in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, are highly symbolic considering the turmoil in Afghanistan, where the Taliban regained control in 2021. Indeed, the situation in the country, where women are deprived of the most basic human rights and the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) keeps on targeting civilians, remains dramatic.

39 Did you know that...

As stated by the Chief of Office of the Under-Secretary-General of UNWCT, after Da'esh territorial defeat in Iraq and Syria, many foreign terrorist fighters returned to other conflict zones. This, combined with the dire situation in Afghanistan, including the illicit trafficking of persons, drugs, and arms requires an enhanced cooperation among Central Asian Countries.

the external dimension of a constantly evolving terrorist and violent extremist threat, as approved by the Council on 20 June 2022; and A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the European Union: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond, of 9 December 2020. On 27 October 2021, the European Commission had adopted the report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of Directive (EU) 2011/555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2011 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

35. The European Union was preparing a revision of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 implementing Article 10 of the United Nations Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UN Firearms Protocol), and establishing export authorization, and import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

36. The European Union emphasized its continued focus on gender-responsive policies on counter-terrorism and on preventing and countering violent extremism and highlighted the decision of the European Union, as co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, to prioritize gender-responsive approaches.

37. The European Union highlighted its efforts with respect to priority countries, its engagement in Afghanistan and South and Central Asia, the role of the European Union in the Global Coalition against Da'esh and the role of the European Union as co-chair for two years of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

38. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) reported that as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, it had a strong mandate to contribute to the global fight against terrorism. In the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, adopted in 2012, which reaffirmed the comprehensive approach of OSCE in the fight against terrorism, strategic focus areas for OSCE counter-terrorism efforts were identified.

39. OSCE provided a detailed account of programme activities undertaken in the fight against terrorism. It had co-organized high-level international conferences on the topics "Regional cooperation of Central Asian countries within the framework of the Joint Action Plan for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" (Tashkent, 3 and 4 March 2022) and "International and regional border security and management cooperation to counter terrorism and prevent the movement of terrorists" (Dushanbe, 18 and 19 October 2022), in light of the current situation in Afghanistan. The Dushanbe conference had concluded with the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration on Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists, which was part of the Dushanbe Process, a series of regional dialogue events that have been taking place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, since 2018. Both conferences fostered regional security dialogue and international partnerships on anti-terrorism issues in line with international human rights.

40. OSCE had organized 11 specialized courses on counter-terrorism for five OSCE participating States from the South-East European and Central Asian regions (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and Tajikistan). OSCE had decided to launch in 2023 a multi-year project entitled "INFORMED: information and media literacy in preventing violent extremism – human rights and gender-sensitive approaches to addressing the digital information disorder", which would include regions of the OSCE area and Partners for Co-operation.

40 Did you know that...

The Internet is being often exploited by violent extremists and terrorist groups to spread their ideology and recruit new members. In addition, as stated by OSCE, the COVID-19 Pandemic brought about widespread misinformation as well as sexist and xenophobic conspiracy theories. The strengthening of critical thinking and analysis, media and information literacy skills is critical to prevent the spread of violent extremism and radicalization. Age and gender-sensitive approaches are key to pursue this goal.

III. International legal instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism

41. Currently, there are 55 instruments pertaining to international terrorism. Of those, 19 are universal and 36 are regional. The fourth edition of the compendium of international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism (vols. 1 and 2) was issued in all six official languages of the United Nations in 2022.

A. Universal instruments

United Nations

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against **Internationally Protected Persons**, including Diplomatic Agents, 1973

International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, 1979

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, 1997

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism,

1999

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 2005

International Atomic Energy Agency

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 1979

Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 2005

International Civil Aviation Organization

Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, 1963

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970

Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 2010

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1971

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1988 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, 1991

Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation, 2010

Protocol to amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, 2014

41 Interesting facts...

Definition: As stated in the Convention, "Internationally Protected Persons" stands for: (a) A Head of State, including any member of a collegial body performing the functions of a Head of State under the constitution of the State concerned, a Head of Government or a Minister for Foreign Affairs, whenever any such person is in a foreign State, as well as members of his family who accompany him; (b) Any representative or official of a State or any official or other agent of an international organization of an intergovernmental character who, at the time when and in the place where a crime against him, his official premises, his private accommodation or his means of transport is committed, is entitled pursuant to international law to special protection from any attack on his person, freedom or dignity, as well as members of his family forming part of his household.

41 Did you know that...

This Convention of 1999 laid the foundations for the future measures implemented to eliminate the financing of terrorism. The Convention is indeed aimed at enhancing international cooperation among States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism, as well as for its suppression through the prosecution and punishment of its perpetrators.

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41 Did you know that...

As the only legally binding international agreement requiring the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material is foundational to the laws and institutions that support strong and sustainable nuclear security around the world. Although it does not create any specific standards for nuclear security, the A/CPPNM does strengthen norms around broad nuclear security principles. It also encourages high-level political attention, information sharing, national commitments, and confidence-building in support of nuclear security.

41 Something to think about

In 2022 The Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) was held at IAEA Headquarters in Vienna with the aim of reviewing the implementation of the Convention. As underlined by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Conference came at a pivotal moment for strengthening norms and laws that promote strong security at nuclear facilities around the world. In particular, the IAEA pointed out how cooperation between countries that face the greatest risk has recently faded. Moreover, Russia's or Ukrainian nuclear facilities ran contrary to international law and raised important questions about the future of international nuclear security cooperation.

41 Interesting facts...

The Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, which entered into force in 2018, was introduced following what the ICAO considered as an "escalation" of unlawful acts against civil aviation and the emergence of new types of threats against civil aviation which require enhanced cooperation among States.

International Maritime Organization

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988

Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed

Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, 1988

Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, 1988

B. Regional instruments*African Union*

Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, 1999

Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, 2004

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention on Counter-Terrorism, 2007

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, 2009

Central African Economic and Monetary Community

Regulation No. 08/05-UEAC-057-CM-13 on the adoption of the Convention on the Fight against Terrorism in Central Africa, 2005

Collective Security Treaty Organization

Agreement on collective forces of rapid response of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, 2009

Commonwealth of Independent States

Treaty on Cooperation among the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Terrorism, 1999

Protocol on the approval of the Regulations on the organization and conduct of joint anti-terrorist operations in the territories of member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2002

Treaty of States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on Combating the Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, 2007

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Convention of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf on Combating Terrorism, 2004

41 Did you know that...

This Convention, as stated in Article 1, does not apply to a warship or a ship owned or operated by a State when being used as a naval auxiliary or for customs or police purposes. Moreover, it is important to underline how it applies for ships that are navigating or are scheduled to navigate the territorial sea of a single State or the lateral limits of its territorial sea with adjacent States.

15 Something to think about

This Protocol was introduced following what the Heads of State and Governments of the Member States of the African Union described as a growing incidence of terrorist acts as well as growing linkages between terrorism and mercenaries, weapons of mass destruction, and transnational organized crime. The aim of the Protocol is to better coordinate and harmonize the efforts in preventing and combating terrorism in the African continent.

15 Did you know that...

The state members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, and Republic of Tajikistan) created the Collective Rapid Reaction Forces with the aim of ensuring that the aspiration of providing security and stability can be fulfilled. In this respect, the Collective Rapid Reaction Forces (CRRF) are defined as a component of permanent readiness of forces and means of system of collective security of the CSTO. They are intended for rapid response to challenges and safety hazards of state members, but they cannot be used for dispute resolution between the Parties. Among the main objectives assigned to the CRRF, are the participation in the prevention and reflection of armed attacks, including aggression, localization of armed conflicts and the participation in actions for the fight against international terrorism, drug trafficking, psychotropic substances and their precursors, weapon and ammunition, and other types of transnational organized crime.

International Maritime Organization

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988

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Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Convention of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf on Combating Terrorism, 2004

41 Did you know that...

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was founded in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Meetings are held periodically on a rotating basis at the CIS countries' capitals. Upon its foundation, members adopted the Alma-Ata Declaration, which confirmed the promise of the former republics to cooperate in various fields of external and internal policies.

41 Interesting facts...

It is namely after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the US that the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates – became ever more preoccupied with the terrorist threat posed by Islamist groups, among which Al Qaeda. This led them to re-think their counter-terrorism strategies both on a national and regional level as well as to enhance cooperation among themselves.

Council of Europe

- European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, 1977
- Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, 2003
- Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, 2005
- Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, 2005
- Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, 2015
- Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, 2017**

Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism

- Agreement on the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, 2011

European Union

- Convention between the Kingdom of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Austria on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism, cross-border crime and illegal migration, 2005

League of Arab States

- Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, 1998
- Amendment of 2008 to the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism
- Arab Convention on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, 2010
- Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Offences, 2010**

Organization of American States

- Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance, 1971
- Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, 2002

Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

- Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the **Black Sea Economic Cooperation** Organization Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms, 2004

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

- Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism, 1999

41 Interesting facts...

This Convention is the only international treaty specifically dealing with the criminalisation of the illicit trafficking of cultural property. Aimed at preventing and combating the illicit trafficking and destruction of cultural property, the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property establishes criminal offenses such as: theft, unlawful excavation, importation and exportation; and illegal acquisition and placing on the market.

41 Something to think about

This Convention aims at enhancing cooperation between Arab States in combating information technologies offenses to ensure the security and safety of Arab States' communities. Among the offenses covered, Article 15 of the Convention concerns "Offences Related to Terrorism Committed by means of information technology". These include:

1. Dissemination and advocacy of the ideas and principles of terrorist groups.
2. Financing of and training for terrorist operations, and facilitating communication between terrorist organizations.
3. Dissemination of methods to make explosives, especially for use in terrorist operations.
4. Spreading religious fanaticism and dissent and attacking religions and beliefs.

41 Did you know that...

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) includes 13 Member States covering an area of 20 million sq.km and being pivotal to three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa. BSEC operates on five levels: Intergovernmental, with the Council of Foreign Ministers exercising decision making; Interparliamentary, providing support in legislative matters; Interbusiness, driven by the private sector; Interfinance, represented by the Trade and Development Bank; and Interacademic, which brings together scientists, scholars, researchers, and academicians who work together to translate the scientific, technological and intellectual resources of the region into projects that promote development and well-being.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, 2001
 Agreement on the procedure for organizing and conducting joint anti-terrorist measures in the territories of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, 2006

Agreement on cooperation in identifying and blocking the entry routes to Shanghai Cooperation Organization member States of persons involved in terrorist, separatist and extremist activities, 2006

Agreement on the procedure for organizing and conducting joint counter-terrorism exercises by Shanghai Cooperation Organization member States, 2008

Agreement on cooperation among the Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member States in combating the illicit traffic in weapons, ammunition and explosives, 2008

Agreement on the Training of Personnel for Anti-Terrorist Units of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, 2009

Shanghai Cooperation Organization Convention against Terrorism, 2009

Convention of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on **Combating Extremism**, 2017

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, 1987

Additional Protocol to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, 2004

41 Did you know that...

After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was indicated as the main body to deal with the delicate situation in the region. In this regard, the **SCO summit** held in July 2021 in Tajikistan, its eight permanent members – China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan – committed to building consensus toward resolving the situation in Afghanistan in ways that could serve mutual interests of Kabul and its neighbours. The SCO also pledged to reinvigorate its regional anti-terrorism institutions to prevent the spread of terrorism, separatism and extremism into the territories surrounding Afghanistan.

41 Did you know that...

In the Convention, "extremism" is defined as ideology and practices aimed at resolving political, social, racial, national and religious conflicts through violent and other unconstitutional actions.

41 Interesting facts...

SAARC was one of the first regional organizations to embrace a binding treaty against terrorism. Already during the Second SAARC Summit in Bangalore held in 1986, Member States agreed that cooperation among SAARC States is fundamental to stop and eliminate terrorism from the region.