

## ***Table of Contents***

1. Introduction to the Committee
2. Introduction to the Agenda Item
3. Key Words & Definitions
4. Terrorism and Counterterrorism Explained
  - 4.1. Types of Terrorism
  - 4.2. Underlying Reasons of the Emergence of Terrorism
  - 4.3. Terrorist Recruitment Methods
  - 4.4. Frequent Intimidation and Destruction Methods Used by Terrorist Groups
  - 4.5. Terrorist Financing
5. International Counterterrorism Efforts
  - 5.1. Armed Conflict with Terrorist Groups
  - 5.2. The Role of UN
  - 5.3. Anti Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism
6. International Law Related to Terrorism
7. Questions to be Answered
8. Further Reading and Bibliography

## **1. Introduction to the Committee**

The United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism(UNOCT), is a United Nations body which was established on June 15th 2017 , in order to assist United Nations(UN) member states in upholding the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy(GCTS).

UNOCT's main functions are: providing leadership on counter terrorism mandates entrusted to the UN Secretary- General across the UN system , enhancing coordination across the members of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Compact which is a coordination framework that brings together 46 entities including impactful international institutions such as the International Criminal Police Organization(INTERPOL) -whose purpose and impact will be further explained in the study guide- , strengthen the delivery of UN capacity building assistance to Member States, improving visibility and resource mobilization for UN counter terrorism efforts and ensuring that priority is given to counterterrorism efforts across the UN system and all work being done in order to prevent and counter terrorism follows and is rooted within the GCTS.

Additionally , UNOCT also works closely with the United Nations Security Council(UNSC) on mandates regarding counter-terrorism; preventing, responding and mitigating the damages of terrorist acts.

Technical assistance and capacity building to UN member states is one of the important mandates of the UNOCT. Capacity building, which can be defined as developing and strengthening the skills , processes and capabilities of institutions for them to function efficiently , along with technical assistance is mostly delivered through the UN Counter Terrorism Centre(UNCCT) and Special Projects and Innovation Branch(SPIB) branches of the UNOCT. These branches take action together with the UN member states and Global Counter Terrorism Compact(CT Compact) against things which facilitate terrorism or enable it to continue its existence through measures and programmes such as countering terrorist financing , disruption of terrorist travel and the AROS programme to help states counter the usage of remotely controlled systems such as drones and many more.

The programmes and actions taken by the UNOCT is mainly funded through the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism which is provided by governments , intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations , private institutions and individuals.

## **2. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

Currently , there doesn't exist a universally agreed upon definition of the word "terrorism" , even though it is frequently used in official documents and legal frameworks. Despite this , we can broadly define the term as a method of coercion which tends to use violence or actively threatens to use violence in hopes of spreading fear , which will allow them to obtain certain ideological or political goals.

Counterterrorism , due to the lack of a clear definition of the term "terrorism" , similarly does not possess a clear meaning. However it can be simply defined as actions taken by governments and such entities aimed at preventing or combatting the facilitation , recruitment and the actions of terrorist groups and individuals.

Terrorism continues to pose a critical threat to UN member states and civilians all across the world. Harming communities , destroying civil settlements and cities , sometimes committing various human rights violations and resulting in countless civilian deaths ; terrorism has been a field which the United Nations has ever since its formal creation have stood against and counterterrorism something fully supported and encouraged.

Ever since the September 11 attacks, it has become increasingly clear that in order for effective and permanent counterterrorist action to be taken; global coordination , capacity building , legal framework improvement and a lot more is essential.

Today , there still remain many aspects of global counterterrorism strategies , policies and operations which can, and needs to be, be greatly improved in various fields. As UNOCT, the leading UN organ on counterterrorism mandates , extensively debating and discussing these possible improvements and fixations on global counterterrorism is expected of you.

### **3. Key Words & Definitions**

**terrorism:** No universally agreed upon definition exists. It can broadly be defined as a method of coercion which tends to use violence or threatens to utilize violence in order to achieve a political or ideological goal.

**counterterrorism:** All action taken in order to prevent or counter terrorism in any form.

**Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact:** A coordination framework, the largest one across the three pillars of work in the UN, consisting of 46 entities , 43 of them being UN bodies, including INTERPOL , World Customs Organization and the Financial ACTION Task Force. The Global COUNTERterrorism Compact has a great positive impact on the coordination and effectiveness of United Nations systems on preventing and countering terrorism

**capacity building:** Capacity-building is defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.

**terrorist financing:** The methods utilized by terrorist groups and organizations in order to finance the money needed for them to sustain their terrorist activities through various methods.

**UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy:** A unique global strategy which all United Nations member states have agreed to adopt , enhancing national regional and international efforts to counter terrorism.

**violent extremism:** Doesn't have a universally agreed upon definition , but can be broadly defined as violent activities and actions of groups motivated by extremist ideological or political motives. This term on occasions is used interchangeably with terrorism and is present in this list of key words and definitions in order to prevent confusion.

**P/CVE:** Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism.

**AML/CTF:** Anti Money Laundering Counter Terrorist Financing.

#### 4. Modern Terrorism Explained

Terrorism can broadly be defined as, although no universal agreement upon its absolute international definition has been reached yet, a method of coercion or intimidation that uses or threatens to use violence in order to spread fear and thereby reach an ideological or political goal.



Terrorism is distinguished in law from ordinary violence with the classic terrorist triangle: terrorist group “A” makes an attack on “B” in order to convince or force “C” to change its position or take an action regarding a policy desired by “A”.

The attack executed by “A” spreads fear among the innocent victims as the violence is directed against them , putting pressure on C to change their policy or decision.

Terrorists utilize many forms of violence , indiscriminately against civilians, military facilities , State officials and any other targets that attacking would advance their goal of spreading fear amongst the public and therefore forcing their ultimate target to comply with their request.

##### 4.1. Types of Terrorism

Examining terrorism by dividing terrorist groups into categories based on the scale and motivation of the act and the person or group committing or in any way facilitating the terrorist act is helpful in understanding the differences between distinct terrorist groups and the diverse methods they utilize. As a result of their differences in their methods , power , aims and the circumstances of the places which they operate in; legitimate effective counterterrorist action requires distinct approaches and solutions for each category of terrorist groups.

One common way terrorist groups can be classified is based on the group's motivation to cause an international or national impact with their actions. A terrorist act with the purpose of the act strictly only about the country which the act is committed within would be considered an act of domestic terrorism, meanwhile if a terrorist act has intentions to impact the international scene in one way or another that terrorist act would be classified as an example of international terrorism. While domestic and international terrorism ,in their core, may not seem too distinct from each other, the underlying reasons of why they are committed and why groups committing such acts are established along with the institutions and organizations who have jurisdiction to combat such acts are distinct.

Domestic terrorism refers to acts of terrorism committed in order to intimidate the public therefore coerce or intimidate a government into changing or refraining from changing a policy, under the condition that all the perpetrators are of the country that is targeted. Acts of domestic terrorism lack foreign influence or direction. Since acts of domestic terrorism are targeted only at the civilians and the government of the country which the attack takes place in, governments have jurisdiction over dealing with domestic terrorists. This also indicates that acts of domestic terrorism are judged based on the national definition of terrorism upheld by the state where the domestic terrorist act is committed. Domestic terrorism is often linked to lone-wolf terrorism , which is an act of terrorism committed by one person who acts on his or her own throughout the operation.

On the other hand, international terrorism refers to acts of terrorism committed on an international scale. In international terrorism, targets are chosen due to their value within international interests.

Due to the lack of an internationally universally agreed upon definition of terrorism the jurisdiction of countering international terrorism isn't as simple as its domestic counterpart is. Factors such as territoriality, the soil which the terrorist act was committed in, active nationality, the nationality of the terrorists, and passive nationality, the nationality of the victims, are critical. Based on these principles , jurisdiction can be asserted between different states on the act of terrorism. Since the enforcement of laws and counterterrorist action outside a state's borders require the consent of the state that holds the territories the counterterrorist action is going to take place in, most of the time extradition treaties are required.



Due to the lack of a clear definitive agreed upon definition of terrorism, an international court for terrorism mandates cannot exist, with special tribunals and adhoc courts filling the need for it currently. Groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS are examples of international terrorist groups.

Terrorism can also be sorted by the motivations of the group or individual taking part in the terrorist activity. For instance, religious terrorism refers to groups who are motivated , justified or legitimized by religious factors. Religious terrorism due to its motives stemming from faith can be more intense and destructive compared to other types of terrorism. Similar to religious terrorism, ideological terrorism is based on the motivations of groups or individuals executing the act of terrorism, with their reasoning behind it stemming from their ideological beliefs.

State sponsored terrorism refers to terrorist acts and groups that are financially, logistically or militarily supported by a state.

With the digital age, the internet and other online applications or devices have spread to all across our daily lives. The rise of the Internet has also impacted terrorism, introducing cyberterrorism into the world. Terrorist acts committed in digital environments fall under this term. Cyberterrorism has the potential to be dangerously effective and measures to prevent and counter it should most definitely be taken.

Terrorists can use or threaten the usage of nuclear or biochemical weaponry if they manage to obtain it. In such circumstances the international community is put under a great deal of pressure and civilians worldwide are most likely to be very intimidating, serving the terrorist groups' purposes. These situations should be avoided by preventing terrorists from reaching such weapons of mass destruction , but that's a different topic.

#### **4.2. The Underlying Reasons for the Emergence of Terrorism**

According to research and years of observation of terrorist activities , there are a multitude of factors which lead individuals and groups of people to commit or participate in groups which commit terrorist crime , ranging from a wide range of topics. All of them are key to establishing effective counters to terrorism , as counterterrorism is not only about actions to mitigate and combat terrorist groups , but also to prevent these groups altogether.

Without a proper understanding of the factors that lead terrorist groups and individuals to emerge proper methods cannot be formed and put into action. According to the VE Action Plan , which is a comprehensive action plan aimed at addressing the drives of violent extremism which is related to terrorism and oftentimes has a positive correlation with the increase of terrorism, the factors can be divided into “push” and “pull” factors.

Push factors are the conditions of the structure of the societies and communities which cause terrorism to emerge and terrorist groups to form. These include the lack of socio economic opportunities, poor governance , violations of human rights and the rule of Law and prolonged and unresolved conflicts. It should also be noted that in prisons individuals can be forced or convinced into adopting such ideas, another very common reason why people turn to terrorism.

Pull factors refer to individual motivations and processes which may play a role in one's pathway to participating in terrorist activities. Individual backgrounds and motivations ,collective grievances of communities stemming from incidents that caused damage throughout the majority of those people and factors such as leadership and social networks being in support of such ideals can be considered pull factors of terrorism and violent extremism.

Counterterrorism,due to also including the prevention of terrorism, makes understanding and analysing the factors which drive individuals and groups to commit terrorist crimes key to preventing the activities of terrorist groups and the formation of new ones.

### **Lack of Socio Economic Opportunities**

One of the key drivers of terrorist crime , and any sort of crime in general , is the lack of socio-economic opportunities. A large number of individuals suffering from the lack of socio economic opportunities, meaning problems faced in fields such as employment and infrastructure,

While this example may seem far-fetched, economic factors driving individuals to commit acts of crime is not a highly contested claim and has existed for a long time. Even though the correlation between terrorism and the lack of socio economic opportunities may be contested in some sources , taking into account there are real life examples of major terrorist organizations promising amounts of money for people's participation in their terrorist activities , essentially offering them a job which their society or government has not been able to do, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, it can very clearly be a drive in certain situations.

This drive for terrorism's effect is not limited to the uneducated or unskilled portion of the population , also affecting educated individuals if they experience similar hardships. Any person living in such circumstances , especially if they are legally adults needing work in order to sustain their needs, can enter the pathway to join a terrorist organization.

The lack of socio-economic development is a very large issue that not only affects terrorism but all sorts of issues ranging from corruption to starvation , which has been one of UN's priorities to solve with currently countless UN bodies including the Economic and Social Council(ECOSOC) and the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) working towards mitigating its effects and preventing the lack of socioeconomic opportunities and development. It is unreasonable to expect UNOCT , a body dedicated to counterterrorism, to

somehow solve this issue alone which other UN bodies , frameworks and organs have been trying to for the last decade. However , there is no denying that the lack of socio economic opportunities can be an important drive for individuals to take part in terrorist acts. Perhaps certain actions could be taken in order to prevent the emergence of terrorism in such circumstances and terrorist groups taking advantage of such locations.

### **Poor Governance and Violations of Human Rights**

Sometimes , acts of poor governance can be displayed or human rights can be violated by states , foreign states , intergovernmental organizations or other groups which may result in public outrage and rebellious opinions to form.No argument can be made in order to defend such states or organizations ,especially those who commit extreme crimes against humanity such as genocide , enslavement or sexual violence and demonstrate terrible governance that harm the public and the state itself, and no arguments can be made against the public outrage either, under the condition that protests or movements enacted against an instance of human rights violations harming other civillians.

If a movement , protest , riot or any other activity that can be considered an expression of anger , disappointment and a response to a state , foreign government , group of states or generally any institution or organization that has committed a human rights violation begin to act violently or threaten to act violently towards civilians and the public itself , at that point the action can very clearly be considered a terrorist act.

While that sentence is hard to disagree with , when it's put into action it opens the doors to an undesirable possibility: whichever state , group of states or organization that is opposed claiming that the movement against them is threatening and abusing the public and therefore a terrorist movement. In such a scenario , a precaution against the escalation of a rightful movement to a violent one can be abused in order to weaken the movement's cause and essentially make it much easier to deal with.

This possibility is also related to the lack of a universally agreed upon definition of terrorism, with the same scenario being able to be applied to freedom fighters and movements for self determination. For some states, being able to label such groups as “terrorists” makes it easier to deal with them, as it essentially puts them in a place where their cause won't seem sympathetic to foreigners or citizens of the nation. Their domestic definitions allow this kind of treatment , but a universal definition's establishment may cause the labeling to be impossible to enact. Certain other states opposing such definitions have deadlocked the discussions for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Up until this point , the reasons for the emergence of terrorism may seem unrealistic as people who suffer from such circumstances still most likely won't suddenly start being violence inclined on their own. To fully understand how they can cause terrorism to rise , it must be realized that countless terrorist groups already exist out there which wouldn't mind taking advantage of such situations in order to advance their ideological or political goals , by

using special strategies to recruit individuals or antagonizing groups that their ideology stands against , giving people something to blame and attack , facilitating terrorism

Another way poor governance can strengthen terrorism is how it may weaken counterterrorist efforts through the mismanagement of terrorism related affairs and the lack of efficient law enforcement along with the inefficiency and corruption of other forces which have jurisdiction on the matter, all of which poor governance causes.

### **Marginalization and Discrimination**

Marginalization and discrimination have long been factors which influence societies , cultures and crime including terrorist activities. They remain a major factor that can affect the terrorist influence on large numbers of people.

Communities that are discriminated against within societies due to any reason , especially those which stem from religious , cultural or ethnic circumstances, in fields such as employment , civil services and law are key targets for terrorist recruitment. With usually a considerable portion of such communities being willing to take action in order to eliminate the discrimination done against them or being able to be convinced to take action against the social injustices done towards them , terrorist groups can pull individuals to their cause with promises of ending the discrimination done against them.

Alternatively, this discrimination also causes the formation of terrorist groups within communities, with them having further influence on potential terrorists as they are a part of the community which they try to recruit from.

The effect of marginalization on the pathway to terrorism can also be clearly seen in refugee communities, especially in regions that hold large amounts of asylum seekers. A large number of foreigners suddenly flowing into a country , especially if the hosting state lacks infrastructure and therefore the capacity to hold the incoming refugees, may experience discrimination in many fields , leading to the emergence of violent extremism and terrorism specifically within younger generations who grow up in such circumstances. Alternatively , the locals of the hosting country may also have a process of violent radicalization against the immigrants staying in their country, notably if administrative and economic problems are experienced within the state due to or following the refugee flow.

Marginalization does not only occur when certain political, cultural , ethnic or religious minorities are discriminated against , but also occurs at times when an individual is outcasted from society. If such marginalized people have mental disorders and violent tendencies and they are ignored , marginalized and left untreated ;they can commit serious acts of crime that may fall under terrorism.

### **Prolonged and Unresolved Conflicts**

Prolonged and unresolved conflicts are a crucial driving factor for violent extremism and terrorism. This factor , which is closely tied to some of the other drivers of terrorism discussed

such as the lack of socio economic opportunities and poor governance, creates vital opportunities for terrorist groups which need to be addressed and prevented.

Prolonged and unresolved conflicts existing for a long time causes the State control to diminish in certain areas and create a void which enables terrorist groups to function and further their own agendas by promoting their extremist narratives. The acts of taking over territory , resources and control along with armed conflicts, according to researchers working for the United Nations, serve as a motivational factor that inspires others to follow extremist paths.

Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security.Prolonged conflicts take away the necessary security and peace for long lasting development to be made, halting the progress for the creation of further socio-economic opportunities.

### **Radicalization in Prisons**

Prison environments can have a concerning impact on radicalization in terms of furthering terrorist extremist agendas.Prisons provide a unique environment in which individuals can spread their ideologies and ideas, sometimes being able to force or convince other individuals to accept their ideologies. Poor prison conditions, ill treatment of prisoners, institutional corruption and criminal activity are some of the factors motivating prisoners to adopt extremist views in exchange of protection and assistance from groups which support such ideals.

With the already tense criminal atmosphere present in such places , prisons are one the most prone places for radicalization and the emergence of violent extremism.

### **4.3. Terrorist Recruitment Methods**

People who are dedicated to the cause a terrorist group follows , the members of the terrorist organization are essential for the fulfillment of the groups aims and the continuation of the terrorist group itself. Obtaining new members, recruitment, is one of the most basic functions a terrorist group can have. As terrorist groups are generally stronger the more members they have, the more effective the recruitment of a terrorist group is the more potential to become dangerous it has. If recruitment for terrorist organizations is left unchecked , it would result in the excessive empowerment of terrorist organizations.

The process of convincing someone to join a terrorist group is not an easy one. Making a normal person who priorly did not possess any sorts of extremist views join a violent extremist group may seem impossible, however through intelligent tactics and comprehensive strategies successful terrorist organizations manage to obtain members despite how difficult it can be.

Even though preventing terrorist recruitment has been mostly ignored throughout history, it is one of the most practical, inexpensive and humane ways to counter terrorism. Also having long term positive effects in counterterrorist action, it is a quintessential part of modern counterterrorism.

Due to there being many differences between distinct terrorist groups and a multitude of factors determining or influencing their decision making, there isn't exactly one solid recruitment strategy which all terrorist groups follow, making preventing the recruitment of new individuals to terrorist organizations a difficult task. However, expert analysis shows that to a degree, since terrorist groups learn from each other, fundamentally they usually share certain approaches with each other, which can allow for preventative action to be taken on the matter.

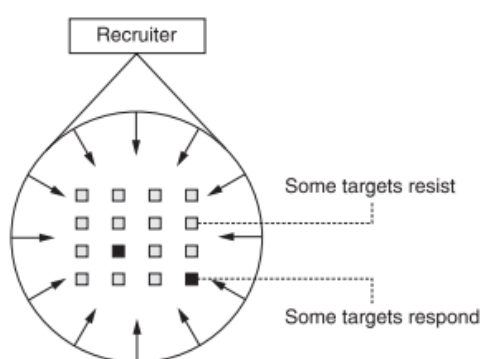
A set of proposed models by the VE Action Plan categorizes terrorist and violent extremist recruitment approaches into three: The Net, The Funnel, The Infection and the Seed Crystal. These categorizations may lack evidence that they are actively utilized by terrorist groups but nonetheless are academic conclusions based on careful examination that help us solidify and more efficiently analyse terrorist recruitment patterns.

### The Net

In this pattern, propaganda materials meant to convince individuals to join a terrorist group or support its activities are published to a specific target population. Some people within the target group will respond negatively while others give positive responses to the call. This pattern is mostly seen used against communities which are homogenous and similar ideologically, religiously or culturally based on the terrorist groups motivation to the degree that approaching them through indifferent ways makes sense and is effective. Most often taking place in environments where the groups or the publishers of the propaganda face no or very little opposition, The Net's impact and success can be mitigated or prevented through certain factors such as the place the propaganda is disseminated at, the demographic and psychological structures of the population targeted by the propaganda and the efforts of governments to damage the reputation of such terrorist groups.

We can explore a hypothetical scenario to better grasp how The Net works and how its impact can be mitigated or intensified based on certain factors. An imam in a mosque during a sermon in a mostly muslim community preaches terrorist propaganda. Because the community is mostly homogenous, sharing similar ideological and religious views, the propaganda does not need to be tailored specifically for each person and can affect larger audiences more easily. If the group the imam is preaching for hasn't done damage to the

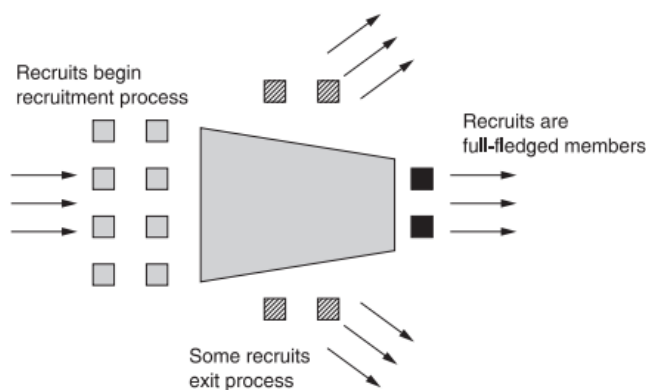
places around where the community is located in, faces little opposition within the target group and governmental efforts are not present the propaganda will convince a larger number of individuals within the community.



## The Funnel

In some cases, a terrorist may believe that a population is suited for recruitment yet still requires a notable transformation on identity and motivation in order to be fully recruited and made loyal members of the terrorist group he or she serves. The Funnel is when a variety of psychological and social techniques are utilized in order to transform potential recruits into trustworthy members.

Hazing rituals, group identity building exercises or other psychological methods can be quite effective and even though parts of the targeted group may fall off from the funnel it may still cause them to retain a positive idea of the group and its actions.

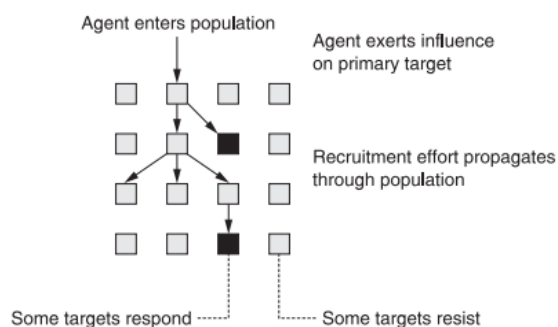


The Funnel requires considerable knowledge upon cognitive, social and clinical psychology to have a substantial impact on the group it targets. Preventing and countering The Funnel demands knowledge and experience upon those fields of psychology.

The Funnel on a large scale is mostly conducted by large scale terrorist organizations such as al-Qaida.

## The Infection

A group targeted by terrorist recruiters may not always be homogeneously well suited for terrorist recruitment. Frequently, a necessary group will be so difficult to reach using other methods that the only truly viable way to recruit individuals from these communities is to infiltrate them. Trusted agents can be put inside these groups and rally potential members through personal appeals.



This method often utilizes direct methods tailored for the specific individual target. The Infection in its early stages is usually effective in groups that are opposed by governments, such as minorities. It can also be effective in military and police environments if targeted individuals within

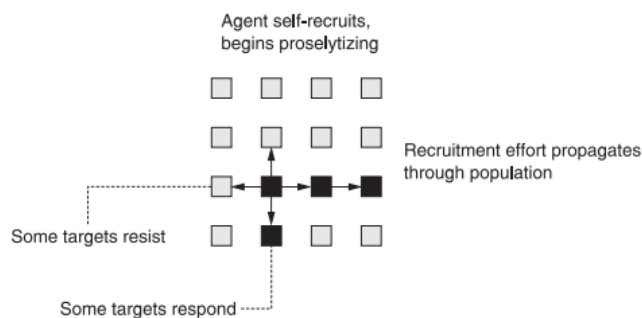
those institutions are somehow unsatisfied or discouraged from their duties.

The Infection pattern works well together with The Net pattern, once large communities are rallied they serve as trusted agents spreading the ideas and promoting the terrorist group to their circles, “infecting” people surrounding them.

### **The Seed Crystal**

Oftentimes target populations can be inaccessible and remote to the degree that trusted agents cannot be put into them and media cannot be used to facilitate propaganda. The Seed Crystal pattern is used in such circumstances, providing a context for self recruitment for individuals.

The Seed Crystal which is one of the most effective patterns of terrorist recruitment happens mostly on the Internet and digital environments. Through pro-terrorist content on social media, discussions forums and other digital spaces potential terrorist recruits are being drawn in to take on a transformation of motivations and values, similar to the Funnel pattern. Through this, what usually starts out as individuals reaching out for more information upon the message the propaganda content was trying to imply result in the individual's violent radicalization into a trusted member of the terrorist group publishing the content. At that point, those individuals who go through the Funnel due to the Seed Crystal become suited to act as trusted agents and initiate the Infection.



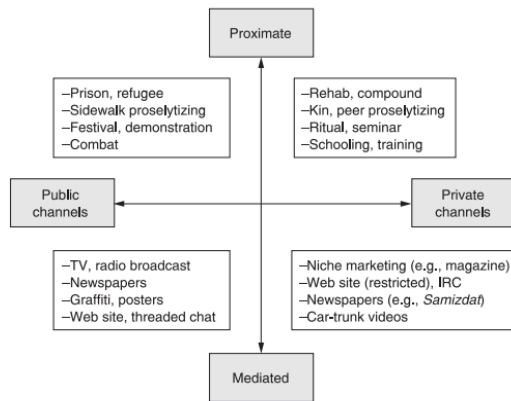
Seed Crystal not only rallies terrorists from unlikely target groups but also drives individuals to acts of lone wolf terrorism, which is a type of terrorism where individuals act on their own without the influence of a group.

### **The Communication Based Approaches on Terrorist Recruitment**

Besides examples through methods such as brainwashing and torture for which not much can be done on the behalf of the UN, terrorist recruitment is made through recruiters or the content published by recruiters communicating and reaching out to potential terrorists. Therefore, understanding the approaches grand terrorist organizations hold in communicating with potential future fellow group members is essential for the ultimate prevention of terrorist recruitment.

Instruments used in order to directly or indirectly invite individuals or groups of individuals to participate in terrorist activities and join terrorist groups include every form of mass media such as the Internet, newspapers and the television as well as things of social influence regarding a multitude of people including sermons, rumors, education and training.

One perspective on types of communication in recruiting.



Sociologists have determined two key dimensions to examine terrorist communication with potential recruits: the publicity of the interaction and the proximity or closeness of the interaction. The publicity being affected by the laws of the region, the rules of local institutions and the general attitude of the regional folk against the group meanwhile the proximity or closeness is determined by the physical closeness of the interaction along with cultural norms, available technology and socio economic status.

#### 4.4. Terrorist Financing

Terrorist groups ultimately need money in order to ensure that their organization's needs are sustained and they are able to carry out effective terrorist acts. With large scale actions usually requiring serious amounts of funding and equipment and regional law enforcement along with international authorities preventing direct money flow to be used to facilitate terrorism, terrorist groups have to resort to methods such as money laundering and using nonprofits as cover in order to fund their activities.

Blocking terrorist funding as much as possible is key for preventative counterterrorist action, as it essentially disables these groups from committing any sort of terrorist acts.

Terrorist funding can occur in multiple ways, not all of them traceable and fully preventable. For instance, it is known that some organizations demand donations of money from new recruits as evidence of their loyalty to the terrorist group they joined. New members and recruits of an organization making financial contributions to the terrorist organizations they have joined, although not always as a demonstration of loyalty, is an occurrence commonly spotted within terrorist groups.

In some cases, terrorist group members, especially Foreign Terrorist Fighters(FTF) obtain the equipment such as weaponry or bombs which they are tasked with using, by themselves. Usually seen in Islamic State of Iraq and Lebanon recruits, this act also can be classified as terrorist financing.

Through individual donations or contributions of money, terrorist groups can obtain considerable amounts of money. However, large scale terrorist action for extended periods of time demand more funds than minor contributions from terrorist organization members can rally in centuries, therefore making groups that aim for substantial action resort to other ways in order to fund themselves and their activities.

## **Crowdfunding**

Crowdfunding can essentially be defined as “ the activity or process of raising money from a large number of people , typically through a website as for a project or a small business”.

Crowdfunding is a quite effective way to raise money for charitable causes, startups or creative projects. Most of the crowdfunding done is legitimate , but since it is a newly growing and evolving sector it can be exploited by terrorist groups to obtain money for their motives.

Terrorist groups abuse humanitarian and nonprofit causes to seem charitable to the public , oftentimes gaining considerable monetary support. Crowdfunding fraud can be committed through dedicated crowdfunding apps , social media platforms and messaging apps where through communication the outlook of individuals to whatever cover the terrorist funding is done with can be improved and reluctance to provide monetary aid can be amplified.

The indicators of a terrorist cover crowdfunding campaign can be the lack of information regarding purpose and motivation of the campaign , the vagueness of the cause , the campaign being run by individuals unrelated to legitimate charity organizations and dedicated websites not disallowing terrorist and violent extremist related content.

According to the reports of the Financial Action Task Force(FATF) there are a number of practices law enforcement can apply in order to combat crowdfunding fraud by terrorist organizations. The FATF recommends law enforcement to eliminate the factors that cause terrorist exploitation of crowdfunding such as the unregulated states certain crowdfunding websites are in and take comprehensive action against the misuse of crowdfunding and analyse the entirety of the transaction chain including the clients behaviour on any digital platforms and the type of crowdfunding website used.

Crowdfunding transactions are complex and with many countries lacking awareness of how exploitable they are for terrorist groups hoping to obtain funds in order to sustain themselves it can be difficult internationally mitigating and preventing crowdfunding fraud. Taking into account the need for global coordination upon this matter , the UN Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact can support global actions to diminish and prevent crowdfunding fraud by terrorist groups and organizations.

## **Nonprofit Organizations**

Non profit organizations(NPOs) and terrorist groups while most of the time operating under vastly different motivations share similarities in the field of necessities. For both of them materials, personnel and funding are key resources. This similarity makes NPOs perfect targets for terrorist groups.

During the transfer, collection or the consumption of resources and during the deliveries of programmes made by NPOs gaps which terrorist organizations could utilize to exploit NPOs can form, putting NPOs in a vulnerable position against terrorism.

## Criminal Acts

Some terrorist groups participate in criminal acts that may serve them as a reliable source of income, most notably illegal arms and drug trade. Combating and preventing this sort of terrorist financing often requires cooperation or collaboration between regional law enforcers and dedicated units to countering terrorism.

Kidnapping for ransom, bank robberies, human trafficking and counterfeiting are also some frequent criminal acts done by terrorist organizations or individuals in order to finance their activities.

## Money Laundering

Money laundering can be defined as the process of making illegally obtained large amounts of money generated by criminal activity seem legitimately earned. Gaps within the anti money laundering systems of governments and the lack of coordination between separate authorities sometimes operating under different governments and institutions can be easily exploited by skilled terrorist group members.

Methods and good practices against countering terrorist financing will be explained with further detail in article 7 of the study guide

Also here is a list of key acronyms useful to know if doing further research on terrorist financing methods delegates may use.

	Definition
AML/CFT	Anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism
CDD	Customer due diligence
DFS	Digital financial services
DNFBPs	Designated Non-Financial Business or Professions
DPI	Digital public infrastructure
EDD	Enhanced customer due diligence
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FI	Financial institution
FIRM	Financial Inclusion Product Risk Assessment Module
FIU	Financial intelligence unit
ID	Identity
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INR.	Interpretive Note to Recommendation
KYC	Know your customer
ML	Money laundering
MVTS	Money or value transfer services
NPO	Non-profit organisation
NRA	National risk assessment
PF	Proliferation financing
RBA	Risk-based approach
R.	Recommendation
SDD	Simplified customer due diligence
TF	Terrorist financing
UN	United Nations
VASPs	Virtual asset service providers

## 4.5. Methods of Intimidation and Destruction Used by Terrorist Groups

Terrorism is inherently random by its nature. It is simply impossible to one hundred percent distinguish methods preferred by terrorist groups to those who aren't, due to every terrorist group carrying distinct features including their motivations, the landscape they operate on

and their capacity of resources along with the fact that terrorist groups frequently change and evolve over time as counterterrorism learns how to counter the old ways.

Common methods used include: assassination or kidnapping of strategically or ideologically important individuals, hijacking of potentially destructive vehicles such as airplanes, suicide bombing especially on crowded or important locations, execution videos meant to intimidate the public and spread fear, the usage of nuclear and biochemical weapons and cyber attacks.

## **5. Counterterrorism Efforts and Methods**

Effectively countering terrorism through various ways can be considered necessary for the safety of civilians worldwide, in the 21st century. Terrorism, being an act executed, facilitated and financed through countless different methods and by a multitude of groups or individuals severely distinct from each other, countering it naturally requires various approaches and efficiency in multiple fields.

The extent counterterrorist action can reach is potentially limitless, whether it would be aimed at preventing or countering financing, recruitment or resource mobilization.

It should always be kept in mind when discussing counterterrorism that overreach, disorganization and recklessness in counterterrorism efforts, especially those involving direct armed conflict with groups, can result in harm to civilians and human rights violations being committed, hypocritically doing what it was trying to stop terrorist groups from doing.

Sometimes, terrorist groups or individuals are put under racial, ethnic, religious or cultural stereotypes. Mostly due to the international effect of terrorist organizations operated by individuals that are a part of that race, ethnicity or religion, this generalization often weakens the effort's strength and results in the occurrence of unwanted discrimination against such groups in many fields.

### **5.1. Armed Conflict Against Terrorist Groups**

The normal approach to countering terrorism is through eliminating factors causing its emergence, blocking terrorist group's ways of financing themselves and improving criminal justice systems although sometimes a military approach may be appropriate or necessary.

Such approaches carry great risks of harming the civilians which they set out to protect and are governed by the International Humanitarian Law (IHL). IHL regulates the aspects of armed conflicts to ensure humanitarian violations are not committed.

The core principles of IHL include: the distinction between civilians and combatants, the restriction of attacking those not actively engaged in combat, the prohibition of inflicting

unnecessary suffering, the permission of measures necessary to legitimately accomplish military goals and the principle of scale.

All these principles are crucial to preventing human rights violations in armed conflict against terrorist organizations, especially in counterterrorism on an international scale and if the fighting is done on foreign land.

IHL permits the lawful killing of some whilst requiring the protection of some others. The involvement of International Humanitarian Law depends on a minimum threshold of violence being crossed or a military occupation occurring. If this threshold is met, the treatment of individuals will be determined by human rights law and unlawful violence will be regulated by domestic law.

Two categories of armed conflict exist: international armed conflict(IAC) and non-international armed conflict(NAIC).

IAC is when armed conflict occurs between two or more states. In contrast to IAC, NIAC applies when there is conflict between states and non governmental armed groups or between armed groups.

NIAC threshold is significantly higher to allow , due to the fact that peacetime law enforcement activities including counterterrorism may need to use force against certain individuals or groups. The threshold is mostly crossed when the law enforcement is unable to combat the intensity of the violence, therefore the nation's armed forces' deployment being necessary.

Armed conflict against terrorist groups may have unintended negative effects on civilians and cause undesired humanitarian violations. Human rights that can be violated while fighting terrorism include: the right to life, the prohibition of torture and ill treatment, non discrimination, the right of self expression, the freedom of movement, the right to a fair trial, freedom of trial and others.

### **The Right to Life**

Any person by default has the right to live. Even though IHL permits individuals directly participating in hostilities such as States and armed actors to be deprived of this right on grounds of military necessity, the direct targeting and killing of civilians is strictly prohibited.

Along with any lives whose killing would be unnecessary being spared, the right to life is critically important and should be upheld in counterterrorist action no matter the circumstance.

## **5.2. The Role of The United Nations**

The United Nations takes a stance against terrorism and the destructive harm it brings on civilians, firmly supporting counterterrorist action. Through UN bodies such as the UNOCT , frameworks such as The Global Compact as well as plans such as the VE Action Plan and the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy UN facilitates , supports and coordinates preventative and direct confrontation ways of counterterrorism.

The UN has been and is currently active on counterterrorism, but that doesn't mean all of its efforts are effective and perfect. There exists room for improvement in UN organs working against counterterrorism in the fields of coordination, effectiveness and extensiveness.



The UN's currently existing methods of supporting counterterrorist action must be analysed and clearly understood in order to find ways to improve the institutions in fields that they are ineffective in.

### **UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy**

The United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy(UNGCTS) is a unique globally adopted plan that aims to improve regional, national and international efforts against counterterrorism. Adopted by a consensus in the General Assembly and later reaffirmed by many resolutions , UNGCTS marks states' agreement on a common strategic and operational approach to counterterrorism.

Member states have the primary responsibility of implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and preventing and countering terrorism along with violent extremism which causes terrorism.

UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy is composed of four pillars:

1. measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
2. measures to prevent and combat terrorism
3. measures to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the United Nations on that regard
4. Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law for the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism

The first pillar relates to factors that influence the emergence and spread of terrorist activities, as referred to in article 6.2 . Without a proper understanding of them, preventative action which holds an important place in the heart of the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Plan cannot be efficiently taken.

The second pillar is the direct actions taken by the UN or its member states in order to prevent or counter terrorism. It includes distinctly different measures, ranging from the censorship or the regulation of online content of various platforms promoting terrorism to armed confrontation with terrorist groups.

Capacity building is another important part of global counterterrorism which the UNGCTS addresses in its third pillar. Capacity building hopes to ensure states without infrastructure and capacity to defend itself or address terrorism can take measures to prevent, counter and withstand terrorism.

The fourth pillar reminds the necessity of the rule of law and human rights on the topic of counterterrorism, especially when armed conflict with terrorist groups occurs. Without human rights and law principles guiding counterterrorist action

Since 2006, the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy has been reviewed by the General Assembly every two years. This makes the document living and dynamic to the states' needs on counterterrorism. Knowledge products of the UNOCT are used in order to provide up to date critical information.

### UN Global Counterterrorism Compact

The UN Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact (The Global Counterterrorism Compact) is the largest coordination framework across the three pillars of work in the UN. It consists of 46 entities, each one essential for global coordination and the effectiveness of counterterrorist action, including entities such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the UNOCT. 38 of these entities are members of the Compact whereas the other 8 are only observers.

#### 46 COMPACT ENTITIES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1267 Committee Monitoring Team</li> <li>• 1540 Committee Expert Group</li> <li>• Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)</li> <li>• Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)</li> <li>• Department of Safety and Security (DSS)</li> <li>• Department of Peace Operations (DPO)</li> <li>• Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)</li> <li>• Department of Global Communications (DGC)</li> <li>• Executive Office of the Secretary-General Rule of Law Unit (EOSG RoL)</li> <li>• Financial Action Task Force (FATF)</li> <li>• International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)</li> <li>• International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)</li> <li>• International Labor Organization (ILO)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA)</li> <li>• Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)</li> <li>• Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)</li> <li>• Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</li> <li>• Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth</li> <li>• Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)</li> <li>• Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide</li> <li>• Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism</li> <li>• Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC)</li> <li>• Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG-VAC)</li> <li>• United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**38**  
Members

#### 46 COMPACT ENTITIES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)</li> <li>• United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> <li>• United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</li> <li>• United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)</li> <li>• United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)</li> <li>• United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)</li> <li>• United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA)</li> <li>• Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC)</li> <li>• World Customs Organization (WCO)</li> <li>• World Health Organization (WHO)</li> <li>• United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</li> <li>• United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)</li> </ul> |
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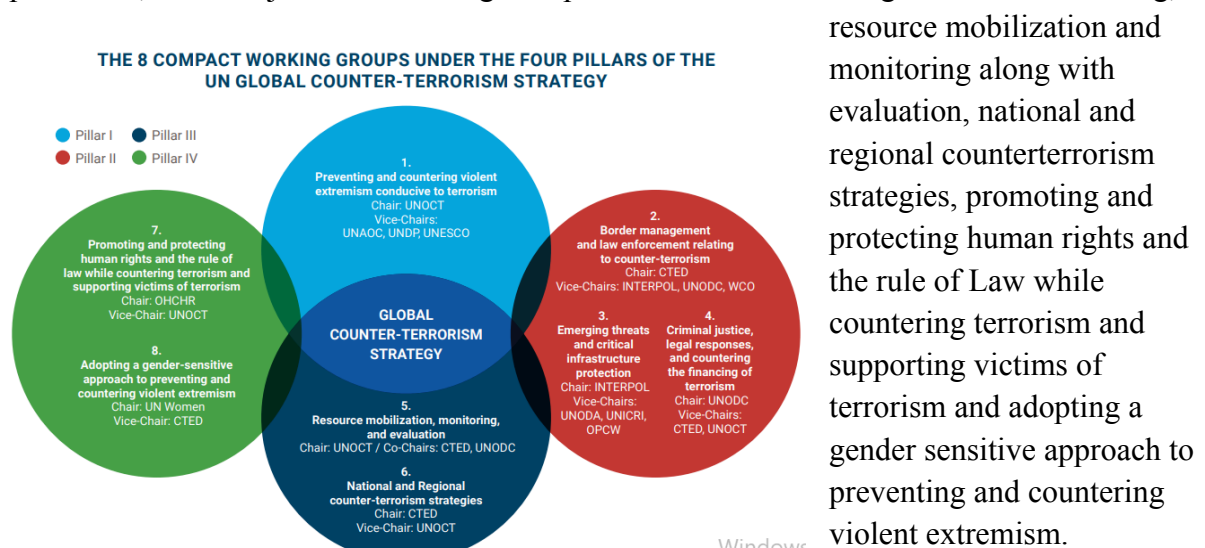
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations High Commissioner</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**8**

The Global Compact upholds the UNGCTS and all of its work on counterterrorism is based on the Strategy. The entire work of the coordination framework revolves around the four pillars of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy.

The Global Compact established 8 working groups under the four pillars of the UNGCTS, with each one focused on a different topic the UNGCTS focuses and urges work to be done in.

The eight working groups of the United Nations Global Coordination Compact are: preventing and countering the conditions conducive to, border management and law enforcement related to counterterrorism, emerging threats and critical infrastructure protection, criminal justice related legal responses and the countering of terrorist financing,



resource mobilization and monitoring along with evaluation, national and regional counterterrorism strategies, promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of Law while countering terrorism and supporting victims of terrorism and adopting a gender sensitive approach to preventing and countering violent extremism.

Under working group one, which all members of the Compact are working together in, promoting coordination to prevent and counter conditions conducive to violent extremism and terrorism. Notable members include: UNOCT, UNDP and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO).

The second group focuses on border management and law enforcement which are crucial fields in counterterrorism. Preventing international terrorism and many terror operations before it occurs, border management should not be overlooked and instead with the help of the UN improved in states which are prone to terrorist attacks. The members working under this group are:

- 1267 Monitoring Team
- 1540 Committee Group of Experts
- DPO
- DPPA
- ICAO
- IMO
- OHCHR
- OLA
- OPCW
- Special Rapporteur on Human Rights while CT
- UNDP
- UNICRI
- UNIDIR
- UNITAR
- UNOCT
- UNODA
- WHO

The third working group in the Global Compact aims to solve emerging threats and critical infrastructural problems. Emerging threats most notably include the misuse of biological, chemical and nuclear radiological weaponry.

<b>Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 33%;">• 1267 Monitoring Team</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• DGC</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• OHCHR</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• UNDP</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• WCO</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• 1540 Committee Group of Experts</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• DPO</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• OLA</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• UNESCO</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• WHO</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• CTBTO</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• DPPA</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• Special Rapporteur on Human Rights while CT</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• UNIDIR</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• UNODA</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• UNOCT</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• UNODC</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• CTED</li> <li style="width: 33%;">• IMO</li> </ul>	<b>Observers</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IAEA (ad-hoc)</li> <li>• IPU</li> <li>• OCHA</li> </ul>	

#### 4. Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses & Countering the Financing of Terrorism

Chair



Vice-Chairs



Objective

To promote coordination and coherence to reinforce the critical role of the criminal justice sector and its efforts in countering the financing of terrorism in line with the universal legal framework against terrorism, especially the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, as well as international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law.

Membership

- 1267 Monitoring Team
- FATF
- Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
- UNDP
- DPO
- INTERPOL
- UNODC
- UNOCT
- UNICRI

Observers

#### 5. Working Group on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation

Chair



Co-Chairs



Objective

To support the sharing of best practices on delivering the commitment of the Counter-Terrorism Compact through the development of a common monitoring and evaluation framework, as well as accompanying tools, and the provision of guidance and contributing to coordinated resource mobilization efforts by all Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, in particular through a consolidated Multi-Year Appeal.

## 6. Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies

### Co-Chairs



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE (CTED)

### Objectives

- To support Member States and regional organizations in developing their counter-terrorism strategies that reflect all four Pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and in accordance with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.
- To ensure that these strategies aim to counter terrorism in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner, in line with international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, while also ensuring gender equality and youth empowerment through engagement with civil society, academia, think tanks and the private sector.

### Membership

All Counter-Terrorism Compact entities are members or observers of the Working Group

## 8. Working Group on Adopting a Gender Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism

### Chair



### Vice-Chair



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE (CTED)

### Objective

To support gender mainstreaming, promote gender equality, and integrate the women, peace, and security agenda within the framework of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

### Membership

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| • DPO   | • Special Rapporteur on Human Rights while CT | • UNICRI |
| • DPPA  | • SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict         | • UNITAR |
| • EOSG Rule of Law Unit                         | • SRSG on Violence Against Children           | • UNOCT  |
| • INTERPOL                                      | • UNDP  | • UNODA  |
| • OHCHR   | • UNESCO                                      | • UNODC  |
| • Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide |   | • UNSSC  |

### Observers

- IOM
- IPU
- UNHCR

## 7. Working Group on Protecting and Promoting Human Rights, the Rule of Law & Supporting Victims of Terrorism

### Chair



### Vice-Chair



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

### Objectives

- To support Member States to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism, and to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism;
- To provide guidance to Member States to ensure that their counter-terrorism measures are in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law;
- To support Member States and other Working Groups in addressing gaps through mainstreaming human rights.

### Membership

- |                        |            |                           |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| • 1267 Monitoring Team | • IMO      | • SRSG on Sexual Violence |
|                        | • INTERPOL |                           |

### Observers

### **6.3. Anti Money Laundering/ Countering the Financing of Terrorism**

The prevention and countering of terrorist financing deprives terrorist groups of the money and resources essential for them to successfully commit terrorist acts. Countering terrorist financing is an efficient way to eliminate terrorist groups without direct armed confrontation with them. This section goes into more detail about the FATF and methods of countering terrorist financing

The FATF recommendations are considerably valuable in countering terrorist financing, as they come from experts that have experience on the matter.

FATF recommends the establishment of national risk assessment units for terrorist financing to identify gaps which terrorists can take advantage of. Countries figuring out their individual risks on terrorist funding and prioritizing working towards eliminating those risks are essential for countering terrorist financing.

The FATF urges the criminalization of terrorist financing in states where it hasn't been already. Without proper legal systems to back the measures taken against terrorism terrorist financing cannot be fully and efficiently obstructed.

The FATF addresses the exploitability of NPOs by terrorist organizations in their recommendations to countries. In order to prevent this, states need to apply risk based approaches and take measures to protect their NPOs.

Lastly, it is pointed out that preventing rapid asset movement and not refraining from sanctioning individuals that are designated terrorists.

The sight of the usage of cryptocurrencies by terrorists in order to fund their organization and activities has become an increasingly common occurrence. Methods used by terrorists to finance terrorism through cryptocurrencies, due to them being relatively new and adapting, can cause states to face hard times while trying to counter and prevent them. Majority of countries have yet to implement effective policies standing against the usage of cryptocurrencies for terrorist funding, making it a viable option for terrorist groups.

According to the FATF, the risks money laundering and terrorist financing pose in this sector needs to be addressed. The sector needs to be supervised like other financial sectors are and virtual asset service providers need to be licensed or registered. Collective action needs to be taken for the measures to be effective.

## **7. International Law and Conventions Related to Terrorism**

It is important to understand that in compliance with the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy and various other documents the rule of law and being appropriate from a human rights perspective is crucial for any efforts aiming to prevent or counter terrorism. The rule of law prevents disorder and hopes to ensure that human rights are not violated.

Many sector based conventions and treaties regarding terrorism and counterterrorism exist, on multiple fields of counterterrorism ranging from terrorist financing to countering terrorist hijacking of aerial vehicles and so on. None of these treaties and conventions have comprehensively addressed gaps within the international legal systems , frameworks and agreements about terrorism. Even though this situation doesn't immediately collapse counterterrorist efforts immediately, the gaps can cause complexities and undesired outcomes in the future if left unaddressed.

It should be noted that UNOCT itself does not have the authority and jurisdiction to amend, change or discard international treaties or legal systems. However, prior to discussing counterterrorism, being well versed in the legal systems and treaties that govern counterterrorism is essential for productive debate and diplomatic conversation. Furthermore, due to UNOCT's position as a leadership providing UN body on terrorism , it can be of aid to deadlocked discussions or help address obvious gaps in legal systems.

### **7.1. The Lack of an International Universally Agreed Upon Definition of Terrorism and the Comprehensive Convention**

Terrorism , on an international scale, does not have a universally agreed upon definition due to a multitude of reasons, involving past failures and the domestic definitions of terrorism. In order for us to better understand the reason behind the lack of a definition and why it still cannot be established, we need to examine past counterterrorism actions.

The first attempt at establishing a universal definition for terrorism happened in the early 20th century in Belgium, which is mostly irrelevant to the current situation. The existing lack of definition for terrorism is tied to post 9/11 counterterrorism.

Before the rise of islamic jihadist terrorist organizations such as ISIL, ISIS and al-Qaida terrorism didn't have much of an impact on the international scene, although it was still recognized as a possible threat to global safety. 9/11 marked a noticeable increase in the amount of counterterrorist efforts , the budgets spent on counterterrorist measures by nations

and the significance given to international counterterrorist action. The UNSC promptly released resolutions urging nations to take counterterrorist measures in order to mitigate and prevent terrorism.

This call was positively responded by many nations all across the world, with the fear of similar catastrophes occurring in their own country. The problem was that all of this was done without a proper definition for terrorism existing, causing differences between the approaches of separate governments since they acted on their national definitions of terrorism.

If the national definition followed by states after 9/11 were similar it wouldn't have been so difficult to establish the definition. Sadly, distinct definitions of different nations can be unexpectedly different. This causes hardships in attempts to establish a clearer definition for terrorism.

There are long standing discussions on the distinction between self determination acts and terrorism as well as state funded terrorism deadlocking agreements on an international definition of terrorism, with states that use their definition of terrorism to label acts of liberation as terrorist activities and use the definition to their benefit in other ways refusing to give up the advantage following the national definition gives them.

The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism was proposed by India ,that had been struggling with terrorist groups at the time, in 1996 in order to address the gaps and comprehensively fill them in. The Comprehensive Convention , which also was attempting to set an international definition for terrorism, currently hasn't been active yet and still is only a draft, due to discussions about it being deadlocked for the last decade.

The Comprehensive Convention is undeniably crucial for improving the international legal system for terrorism. Even though UNOCT is not the platform for discussion of this convention, as it was expressed in the latest GA6: LEGAL ,which is the committee these discussions about the Comprehensive Convention have been on, it can help call a high level meeting for the further discussion of the Comprehensive Convention among many other ways it can aid the process.

## **7.2. Sector Based Conventions and Treaties**

Due to continuous disagreements over the international definition of terrorism, mostly due to not being able to agree on whether freedom fighters would be considered terrorists and to what extent, sector based treaties and conventions had to be established in order to make cooperation and coordination on law enforcement possible, since they did not need a comprehensive definition to be signed.

Most notable sectors such treaties were signed in are aviation, finance , maritime and nuclear and explosive materials.

On aviation, The Hague Convention(1970) which specifically addresses the unlawful seizure of aircraft, Montreal Convention(1971) which covered the acts of violence and sabotage against aircrafts in flight or air navigation facilities, Airport Protocol(1988) which extended the Montreal Convention to cover international airports and the Beijing Convention which addressed the usage of the aircraft as the weapon itself as well as the transportation of dangerous materials are important.

On nuclear weaponry and explosive weapons , The Convention on the Suppression of the Acts of Nuclear Terrorism targeted the possession or the use of nuclear devices with the intent to cause damage or kill.

The International Convention for The Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism served as a cornerstone treaty that required states to criminalize terrorist financing.

## **8. Questions to be Answered**

1. How can the conditions conducive to the spread and emergence of terrorism be addressed and countered and what can be done especially locations without capacity to prevent terrorism in such conditions?
2. How can terrorist recruitment campaigns be mitigated , especially those on digital platforms?
3. In what ways can the gaps in crowdfunding and cryptocurrency systems that allow for their exploitation by terrorist groups be addressed and what measures should be taken to prevent this exploitation?
4. What is violent extremism and how does it affect the spread of terrorism?
5. How can the occurrence of human rights violations during armed conflict against terrorist groups be prevented?
6. In what ways can the UNGCTS be improved to better reflect the current needs of counterterrorist efforts and how can UN member states be supported in the process of implementing and complying with the Strategy?
7. Through what measures can the effectiveness of the Global Counterterrorism Compact be amplified to better suit the current problems faced in counterterrorism?
8. Can the UNOCT help with the establishment of the Comprehensive Convention in any way, if so , how?
9. Taking into account the hardships faced in the discussions of the Comprehensive Convention, should new sector based treaties or conventions regarding the new methods utilized by terrorist groups be drafted in order to sustain the rule of law in counterterrorism?

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