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TOPIC A. Mechanisms to avoid the proliferation of terrorism through digital platforms

I. Introduction

The United Nations Organization Counter-Terrorism has the purpose of searching for ways to stop this, to prevent all these insecurities in society and to stop judging people by their religion or appearance. That's why UNOCT consider it is necessary to discuss real problems to find an effective way to prevent or eradicate the problem for example, terrorism proliferation.

Actually, terrorism is one of the most import challenges every country have to eradicate or control it. That's why it is necessary to understand that terrorism is a violent political fight, where the aggressor looks for disturbing the peace, to create horror and insecurity to a certain group of people.¹

Terrorism is a crime that must be prosecuted through the criminal justice system with all the guarantees of a fair process, within the framework of the rule of law. The fight against terrorism and the scrupulous respect for human rights are two objectives that reinforce and complement each other.² The terrorist groups are modifying their methods of organization and operation, trying to take advantage of the weaknesses of the states and resorting to modern information technologies (internet, social networks, encrypted messaging) to increase the impact of their attacks.³ These groups also take advantage of the existence of areas in some countries that are beyond the control of public authorities.

¹ High Commissioner for Human Rights. Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism. High Commissioner for Human Rights. Geneva, Switzerland, 2003. En: (<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Factsheet32EN.pdf>), p. 6. 23/11/2019.

² *Ibidem*, p.7.

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. UNODC. Viena, 2012. En: (https://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Use_of_Internet_for_Terrorist_Purposes.pdf), 23/11/2019.

Terrorists use these "safe shelters" to organize, train and prepare attacks, both in the State in which they are and in other parts of the world. Terrorist groups incite certain people, often young people, to leave their communities and travel to conflict zones, mainly in Iraq and Syria, and increasingly in Libya.⁴ There has been a change in the way of selecting and radicalizing new individuals, with a greater emphasis on social media and other digital platforms.

II. Concept definition

- *Terrorism*: the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.
- *Fanaticism*: is a belief or behaviour involving uncritical zeal or with an obsessive enthusiasm.
- *Strategic confluence*: confluence is the combination of multiple strategies and ideas into one complete strategy. Confluence occurs when two separate ideas/strategies are used together to form an investment strategy that is in line with an investor's risk profile and goals⁵.
- *Safe shelters*: shelter is a small building or covered place which is made to protect people from bad weather or danger.
- *Biometric data*: a term used to refer to any computer data that is created during a biometric process. This includes samples, models, fingerprints, similarity scores and all verification or identification data excluding the individual's name and demographics.

⁴ United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Combating the Evolving Threat from Foreign Terrorist Fighters. UNOCT, 2019. En: (<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/S2-Zimbabwe.pdf>), 23/11/2019.

⁵ Investopedia. Confluence. Investopedia, 2018. En: (<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/confluence.asp>), 23/11/2019.

III. Current problems

There are growing links between terrorist groups and transnational criminal groups, as evidenced by the High-Level Group on threats, challenges, and change, in its report "A Safer World: The Responsibility We Share"⁶ in 2004. For its part, in 2016 the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies published a study that also described that relationship, entitled "Criminality and terrorism, elements of strategic confluence".⁷ These links have led to the fight against terrorism also linked to the fight against illegal traffic, (of people, drugs, weapons, objects of art, raw materials, etc.) through which terrorists obtain financing.

Spain has woven a profuse network of bilateral agreements worldwide in different areas related to organized crime.⁸ Thus, Spain has agreements with: Albania, Algeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, People's Republic of China, Cyprus, Croatia, Slovak Republic, United States, France, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Biometric data is increasingly important to identify foreign terrorist fighters and prevent them from crossing borders.⁹ We also encourage the exchange of information derived from the battlefield between military and police forces.

Terrorist attacks with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials (QBRNE) could have catastrophic consequences on communities and infrastructure.¹⁰

Military and civil government facilities, international airports, big cities, and famous monuments or buildings, some places of the high-risk targets for

⁶ Véase, United Nations. A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. United Nations, 2004. En: (https://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/a_more_secure_world.shtml), 23/11/2019.

⁷ Véase, Spanish Institute for strategic studies (IEEE.ES). Crime and terrorism, elements of strategic confluence. España, 2016. En: (http://www.ieee.es/en/temas/terrorismo-internacional/2016/DIEEO83-2016.html?_locale=en), 23/11,2019.

⁸ *Idem.*

⁹ INTERPOL. Terrorism. INTERPOL. En: (<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Terrorism>), 23/11/2019.

¹⁰ *Idem.*

terrorist acts. The terrorists could also attack places where there are large volumes of the public, water supplies and food, public services and corporate centres.¹¹ We can also create panic by sending explosives or chemical or biological agents through the mail. In the immediate area of a terrorist attack, you will have to depend on the police, the firefighters and other officials for instructions. However, it can prepare in the same way you would prepare for other disasters or crises.

On the subdivision of the Prevention of terrorist acts: Justice strategy criminal that incorporates the rules of the rule of law in the application of the United Nations instruments concerning the fight against terrorism.

The UN Security Council has specifically addressed the threat of weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism on several occasions. In resolution 1373 (2001)¹², the Council recognized the connection between international terrorism and, inter alia, the illegal movement of such materials. Its seminal pronouncement on the issue came in the form of resolution 1540 (2004)¹³, through which the Council affirmed that the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

More recently, the Security Council again called on the Member States in resolution 2325 (2016)¹⁴ to strengthen their national anti-proliferation regimes in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)¹⁵.

To this end, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy calls upon the Member States, International Organizations and the UN System to:

- Combat smuggling of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials

¹¹ United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. UNCCT ANNUAL REPORT 2018. UNCCT. 2018. En:

(https://www.un.org/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/uncct_annual_report_2018.pdf), 23/11/2019.

¹² Véase, Security Council. Resolution 1373. Security Council. 2001. En. (https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res_1373_english.pdf), 23/11/2019.

¹³ Véase, Security Council. Resolution 1540. Security Council. 2004. En. (<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/sc1540/>), 23/11/2019

¹⁴ Véase, United Nations Security Council Resolutions, Resolution 2325. UNSC. 2016. En: (<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2325>), 23/11/2019.

¹⁵ Véase, United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs. Resolution 1540. UNODA. 2004. En: (<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/sc1540/>), 23/11/2019.

- Ensure that advances in biotechnology are not used for terrorist
- Improve border and customs controls to prevent and detect illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and materials
- Improve coordination in planning a response to a terrorist attack using chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons or materials

In the Sixth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly called upon all Member States to “prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and International Organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard”.¹⁶

IV. Internacional initiatives

The State has the responsibility to protect against terrorism (paragraphs 1 to 17). Obligation to protect life instead of merely sanctioning its deprivation (Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).¹⁷

For that reason, more than 150 of the 191 Member States of the United Nations have contracted obligations arising from the International Covenant on Civil Rights and Politicians guarantee certain rights to all people who are within its territory.¹⁸

In article 6 of the Covenant, of which no suspension is authorized some, it is established that: “The right to life is inherent in the human person. This right will be protected by law. No one can be prived of the life arbitrary”.

For the common citizen, protecting the right to life does not mean punishing those who try or manage to deprive others of that right but avoid losing it. By, therefore, the protection provided by law requires that legal measures be taken intended to thwart and prohibit preparations for terrorist

¹⁶ *Op. Cit.* United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

¹⁷ *Véase*, High Commissioner for Human Rights. Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism. High Commissioner for Human Rights. Geneva, Switzerland, 2003. En: (<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Factsheet32EN.pdf>), 23/11/2019.

¹⁸ *Ídem*.

violence, and not only that those responsible for a mortal act be identified and punished.¹⁹

Also, this Covenant says that reacting instinctively and uncoordinatedly to atrocities, runs the risk of confusing counterproductive severity effectively. For that reason, at paragraph 24 of the working document entitled Specific rights issues human: new priorities, in particular, terrorism and the fight against terrorism urge that: (4) Organize or direct others to commit a crime, such as the dissemination by a religious leader of a religious opinion in which approve the morality of a bomb attack and advise how make this sea more devastating (paragraph 2) of Article 2, paragraph 3) and (5) Contribute intentionally to the commission of a crime by a group of people; for example, hiding a group so that you can carry out an out a planned bomb attack (paragraph c) of Article 2, paragraph 3).²⁰

Some organizations which made an Alliance Counter-Terrorism are:

- United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED)
- Global Coalition against Daesh
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Afripol
- Aseanpol
- Europol
- League of Arab States
- The Gulf Cooperation Council

V. Guidance questions

¹⁹ *Ídem.*

²⁰ *Ídem.*

1. How has terrorism been changing and increasing since the digital era started?
2. Who are the main propagators of terrorism through digital platforms in your delegation?
3. Which measures should the governments take in order to prevent these movements?
4. Which are the methods or apps that terrorists use for the proliferation of their attacks?
5. Which are the principal causes of the cyber terrorism registered and where have they taken place?
6. What are the main reasons for a terrorist to attack a country?
7. Does your delegation have a high percentage of terrorism cases? How have they been treated and propagated?
8. Which measures should the government's take in order to avoid the proliferation of terrorism through digital platforms?
9. What role do they play and how much responsibility do digital and security companies have in the usage of them for terrorism?
10. Have any other countries been involved in terrorist attacks affecting your delegation? Which ones and how?
11. Does your delegation have organizations to fight against terrorism?
12. How can a cyber-terrorist operate through apparently secure platforms?
13. What are the main advantages terrorists have over the authorities through the use of digital media?
14. Is the security in your delegation reliable for the population to trust?
15. Are digital companies taking measures in order to avoid the proliferation of terrorism through them?
16. What could your delegation offer to contribute in the fight against terrorism?
17. How has the Internet been used to be undetected for terrorist attacks?
18. How does terrorism affect the economy of a country?
19. What is the criminological effect of cybercrime?

20. What are some proposed solutions for the decreasing of terrorist attacks?

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