



**Forum:** Sixth Committee (Legal)  
**Question of:** Implementing strategic initiatives to counter terrorism, with emphasis on the influence of extremist organizations  
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**Position:** Main Chair

## **I. Description of the Issue**

Implementing strategic initiatives to counter terrorism, with emphasis on mitigating the influence of extremist organizations, is a crucial step to achieve peace and security on national and international level.

Terrorism has been a long on-going issue worldwide, it claimed thousands of lives and is causing harm and damage to civilians and nations, it can destabilize governments and can therefore be a enormous threat to the human dignity and integrity. Additionally, Terrorism is a harm to basic human rights such as the rights to live, safety, liberty and physical integrity, the United Nations (UN) will not except any abuse of these human rights and the rule of law.

With the emphasis on the influence of extremist organizations, the UN is taking steps on preventing further development of extreme and harmful ideologies and the higher possibility of terrorism that can be the product of such extremist organizations.

Terrorist attacks and threats have been influenced and executed by extremist organizations or influenced people of such, since ages, proofing that these organizations represent a major cause of the violence and crimes.

## **II. Definition of Key Terms**

### **United Nations**

United Nations, is an international diplomatic and political organization, aiming the maintenance of international peace and security, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, support sustainable development and climate action.

### **Strategic Initiatives**



A strategic initiative is a comprehensive plan that an organization sets out for achieving its strategic goals or long-term visions for improvement.

### **Extremist Organizations**

An Extremist Organization is an organized group of people who are holding extreme or fanatical political or religious views, especially one who resorts to or advocates extreme action.

### **III. Background Information**

Terrorism has been a great issue and concern of the UN for centuries, especially the focus on extremist organizations is of great significance, because history has proven that these organizations can cause great harm to governments and civilians.

In 1988 one of the biggest terrorists and extremist groups called Al-Qaeda was established by Osama bin Laden, being responsible for multiple terrorist acts in the future, killing thousands of people in the process.

Al-Qaeda was found responsible for the U.S. Embassy Bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the Madrid Train Bombings and the 9/11 Attack in New York. (To state a few)

In 1994 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, calling for member states to enhance the international cooperation and counter terrorism.

The deadliest terrorist attack has occurred in 2001, the 9/11 attacks on the twin towers of the USA, New York, which were executed by Al-Qaeda and their Leader Osama bin Laden, this attack has set a great example of how devastating and harming terrorism can be and led to the improvement of security not only throughout the USA but worldwide.

Following this attack, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001, commissioned to eliminate Osama bin Laden, this mission however failed, and Osama bin Laden was eliminated by U.S. Navy SEALs years later in 2011.

Besides Al-Qaeda, has the terrorist and extremist Organization ISIS played a significant role in multiple attacks and their impact has brought terrorism and the need of improvement to counter it to a new level.

The General Assembly of the UN created the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) in June 2017, with that establishing a crucial and leading role in preventing terrorist acts.



Furthermore did the UNOCT establish multiple programs, including the Global Program on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) in January 2021, the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel ('CT Travel') Program in May 2019, The Global Program on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Program) in 2020, the Global Counter-Terrorism Program on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS Program) in 2021 to support member states in addressing the threat posed by drones and AROS, this program was launched in partnership with the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC).

Additionally has the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT), which was also created by the UNOCT in September 2011, launched a Program on Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism in, addressing the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) by terrorists.

Overall is the most important and active part of countering this issue the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was approved in 2006, being a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism.

Terrorism is a concern of every member state of the United Nations, and is to be solved as soon as possible, to save lives and the stability of the government.

#### **IV. Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

##### **United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT)**

The UNOCT is a crucial and leading part on counter and prevent terrorism, it was established by the UN in June 2017 and created multiple programs which are specifying on different causes of terrorism, to ensure the safety of civilians around the world and fighting it thoroughly.

##### **Global Program on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)**

The Global Program on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism is an international organization, which enhances the ability of beneficiaries and partners to become more resilient to violent extremism and mitigate the threat of terrorism.

The Program is delivered through the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) within the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT).



## USA

The USA has endured the deadliest terrorist attacks of history, when two planes crashed into the twin towers of New York on September 11th, 2001, killing close to 3.000 people and injuring thousands of others.

Additionally, the USA has endured countless terror attacks throughout the years and was majorly investigated in Invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan and was responsible for the death of Osama bin Laden in May 2011.

This has not only left the world in shock but made the UN and the USA recreate their safety and security structure to prevent such attacks from happening again.

### V. Timeline of Events

When	What
24th of October 1945	Founding of the United Nations
1988	Formation of Al-Qaeda, established by Osama bin Laden
February 1993	Bombing of the World Trade Center, New York
December 1994	Adoption of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adapted by the General Assembly
December 1997	International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings
August 1998	U.S. Embassy Bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, by Al-Qaeda
11th of September 2001	The 9/11 terror attack on New York's Twin Towers, known as the deadliest terror act in history, executed by Al-Qaeda - Osama bin Laden



October 2001	U.S. Invasion of Afghanistan, commissioned to find Osama bin Laden
November 2002	Establishment of Homeland Security (USA)
May 2003	Establishment of the Proliferation Security Initiatives
March 2004	The Madrid Train Bombings, executed by Al-Qaeda
2006	Implementation of the United Nation's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
May 2011	Death of Osama bin Laden, leader of the terrorist and extremist Group Al-Qaeda
September 2011	Establishment of the Global Counterterrorism Forum
September 2011	Establishment of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Center
June 2014	ISIS declares Caliphate
November 2015	ISIS coordinates attacks on Paris, killing 130 people
2015	Establishment of the European Counter Terrorism Center (ECTC)
2016	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Summit
2016	At the NATO Summit, Allied Leaders decided to provide direct support to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS



September 2016	Adopting Resolution 2309 - Security Council Calls for Closer Collaboration to Ensure Safety of Global Air Services, Prevent Terrorist Attacks
May 2017	Manchester Arena Bombing, which ISIS claimed the responsibility for
June 2017	Establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT)
February 2018	The Counter-Terrorism Compact was signed on by the Secretary-General as an agreed framework with the heads of participating entities.
March 2019	Defeat of ISIS's Territorial Caliphate
May 2019	Adaption of the Christchurch Call, by New Zealand and France, made after the terrorist attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand
May 2019	Establishment of the United Nations Countering Travel Terrorist ('CT' Travel) Program
October 2019	Death of ISIS Leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi
2020	Establishment of the Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Program)
January 2021	Establishment of the Global Program on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)
August 2021	U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan
2021	Establishment of the Global Counter-Terrorism Program on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS Program)



June 2024	The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) will hold an Open briefing on “The criminalization of terrorist offences and strengthening of international cooperation in bringing terrorists to justice”
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## VI. Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

There have been multiple previous attempts to solve this issue, however because of the size and diversity of this issue, the UN and its member states have not been able to solve it just yet.

Attempts included.

The establishment of multiple UN bodies, programs and resolutions as well as the unique global instrument, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Further Attempts to solve this issue can be found in the Timeline of Events and the Background Information.

## VII. Possible Solutions

1. Enhance the international cooperation to share and provide information and data with other countries and the UN, to thoroughly analyze and prevent terrorism, as well as to keep track of extremist organizations and activity and any financial transactions that might lead to terrorist or extremist groups.



2. Implement educational programs and raise awareness of the dangers of extremist organizations as well as promote the understanding of different religions and cultures in order to prevent further influence of extremist organizations.

### **VIII. Questions Delegates Should Consider during Research**

- Has your country published any statement regarding this issue?
- What is your country's strategy on Counter Terrorism and security implications?
- What was your country's position on resolutions regarding this issue and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy?
- Is your country affected by any extremist or terrorist activities?
- Has your country founded or co-founded any program to prevent or counter terrorism on national or international level (in cooperation with the UN or other member states)?

### **IX. Relevant UN Treaties and Events**

#### **International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings**

The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings took place December 15, 1997, in New York, to enhance international cooperation of adopting effective and practical measures for the prevention of the acts of terrorism, and for the prosecution and punishment of their perpetrators.

#### **The United Nation's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

The United Nation's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a significant and unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism.

It has been launched in 2006 and plays fundamental and leading role in international cooperation and preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism.





## **Relevant Resolutions**

Resolution 60/288 - The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Resolution 2309 - No Title

## **X. Useful Links**

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/Factsheet32EN.pdf>

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/about>

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Foreign Terrorist Fighters, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/foreign-terrorist-fighters>

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Countering Terrorist Travel, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/countering-terrorist-travel>

UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, <https://www.un.org/cttravel/>

Countering the Finance of Terrorism, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/countering-financing-of-terrorism>

United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

UNOCT Human Rights, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/human-rights>

AROS Program Micro-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator Training Course, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/micro-uas-operator-training-course>

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<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/foreign-policy/security-policy/new-challenges/countering-terrorism/global-counterterrorism-forum.html#:~:text=The Global Counterterrorism Forum is,New York in September 2011.>

Counter-terrorism: Joint EU-Egypt press release following the 21st Global Counterterrorism Forum Coordination Committee Meeting, Released 04. May 2023,



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