

General Assembly

Topic: “Countering Global Security Challenges: Addressing the Threat of Terrorism”.

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I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) is the primary deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the United Nations, established in 1945. It is composed of all 193 UN Member States, providing a unique platform for multilateral discussion on international issues covered by the UN Charter. Each member has an equal vote, reflecting the Assembly’s commitment to equality and collective decision-making, regardless of the size or power of a country. The GA plays a vital role in shaping international norms and standards by adopting resolutions on a wide range of global issues, such as peace and security, development, human rights, and international law.

The General Assembly's work is carried out through its plenary sessions, where key decisions on international cooperation are debated, and through its six main committees, which focus on specific areas like disarmament, economic and financial matters, and humanitarian affairs. The Assembly is also responsible for electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council, appointing the Secretary-General, and approving the UN budget. While the decisions of the GA are not legally binding, they represent the global agreements and carry significant moral and political influence. Through its broad mandate, the General Assembly encourages dialogue, cooperation, and unity on some of the world’s most pressing challenges, from poverty elimination to climate action.

II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

a. Introduction of the topic

Terrorism remains one of the most complex and pervasive threats to global security in the 21st century, presenting a unique challenge for governments, international organizations, and societies. As this crisis committee convenes, we find ourselves tasked with addressing a rapidly evolving issue that affects all regions of the world. Acts of terrorism have not only caused significant loss of life but have also undermined international peace, stability, and trust between nations. The global nature of terrorism necessitates a coordinated, multi-faceted response that accounts for its diverse causes, from ideological extremism to socio-economic instability.

In recent years, terrorism has taken on new forms, from cyberterrorism to lone-wolf attacks, highlighting the adaptability and resilience of terrorist networks. Despite military interventions, counterterrorism strategies, and international efforts to curb financing and recruitment, terrorist organizations like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and regional factions continue to destabilize regions, recruit vulnerable populations, and perpetuate violence. Additionally, non-state actors and rogue states often use terrorism as a tool to advance geopolitical interests, further complicating the global security landscape.

b. Evolution of the topic

Terrorism today has shifted from large, centralized hierarchical networks like post-9/11 al-Qaeda toward decentralized threats, driven heavily by lone actors, small self-radicalized cells, and online extremist propaganda. While major regional conflicts and shifting geopolitical tensions keep global security forces on alert, the primary mechanism of danger involves digital recruitment and localized violence. Independent individuals inspired online by extremist ideologies pose a harder-to-detect threat than organized groups.

c. Relevant Events

The 9/11 attacks

On September 11, 2001, 2,977 people were killed in the deadliest terrorist attacks in American history. Two planes, hijacked by Islamic jihadists vowing death to all Americans, plowed into both towers at the World Trade Center in New York. Another plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. A fourth plane, presumably headed for the White House or the U.S. Capitol was heroically diverted by passengers and ended up crashing in an empty field in Pennsylvania. The 9/11 attacks were the deadliest on American soil since the shock attack at Pearl Harbor 60 years before, and the sense of outrage was reminiscent of that moment. The attacks in New York occurred in the country's busiest city on a busy workday.

Mumbai Attacks

On 26 November 2008, ten transnational terrorists attacked Mumbai, which included the busiest railway station in peak hour, five-star hotels, a café shop and hospitals. The multiple attacks and control measures lasted for three days, leading to the deaths of over 149 people which included civilians, foreign nationals, security personnel and hospital staff. The attack was a meticulously planned and executed act of terrorism where explosive devices and gunfire were used to cause the maximum number of casualties and lasted for 60 hours.

Pan Am Flight 103

Pan Am Flight 103 was a regular flight that exploded on December 21, 1988, over Lockerbie, Scotland. A bomb hidden inside a suitcase tore apart the Boeing 747 plane. All 259 people on the plane and 11 people on the ground died. It is the worst terror attack in British history.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

a. Panorama

As this committee addresses these urgent challenges, we must consider both immediate actions and long-term strategies. Our deliberations must focus on a range of topics, including international cooperation, intelligence sharing, combating the financing of terrorism, deradicalization programs, and the protection of human rights. Moreover, this crisis committee must be prepared to respond dynamically to unfolding events, as the nature of terrorism is typically unpredictable and swift.

The stakes are high. Our collective actions—or lack thereof—will determine the course of global security for years to come. It is essential that we approach this challenge with a commitment to diplomacy, a deep understanding of the root causes of terrorism, and a unified effort to create lasting peace and security.

b. Points of View

United States of America

The United States is deeply involved with terrorism through global counterterrorism military operations, domestic and international law enforcement, foreign policy designations, and historical interventions. Its role spans fighting extremist groups, monitoring global threats, and enforcing strict legal and economic policies. Critics and historians note that during the Cold War and other conflicts, the U.S. at times provided arms, funding, or training to proxy groups and paramilitary forces that utilized violent or terror tactics to oppose communist or hostile regimes.

Syria

The security landscape in Syria has shifted dramatically following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime and the rise of a new government led by President Ahmed al-Sharaa. The United States initiated formal steps to rescind Syria's long-standing State Sponsor of Terrorism designation, marking a major policy shift after years of civil war and state-backed violence. Underground remnants of the Islamic State remain active in remote parts of the country, carrying out localized insurgent attacks and sporadic bombings.

Pakistan

Pakistan faces a severe resurgence of terrorism, driven primarily by groups based along its western borders, marking some of its highest casualty rates in years. The conflict

strains state security forces, regional stability, and diplomatic relations with neighboring countries. The Pakistani Taliban acts as the most aggressive anti-state armed group, operating heavily from neighboring sanctuaries to target military and law enforcement personnel.

Russia

Russia has suffered major terrorist attacks, notably from separatist and Islamist groups originating from the North Caucasus region (such as the 2002 Moscow theater hostage crisis and the 2004 Beslan school siege), as well as more recent attacks claimed by groups like ISIS-K. International critics and tribunals have accused the Russian military of committing state-level atrocities, war crimes, and deliberate terror campaigns against civilians during the war in Ukraine (such as mass missile strikes on civilian infrastructure) and historical conflicts like the Chechen Wars and the intervention in Syria.

China

Beijing has faced violent incidents linked to separatism and religious extremism, particularly in the Xinjiang region involving ethnic Uyghur separatist groups (such as the 2014 Kunming station attack), which the Chinese government officially designates as terrorist threats. United Nations experts, human rights organizations, and Western governments accuse China of using mass detention, systemic cultural erasure, and severe repression against the Uyghur population in Xinjiang under the broad and ambiguous label of counter-terrorism.

IV. UN & EXTERNAL ACTIONS

a. UN

The United Nations fights global terrorism through legal rules, financial sanctions, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), which helps countries improve border security, track terrorist money, and prosecute fighters while protecting human rights. The Security Council forces countries to freeze bank accounts and money linked to groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS. The UN blocks known terror suspects from crossing international borders.

b. External actions

Governments and international groups stop terrorism by sharing intelligence, blocking money paths, hardening borders, and launching military or law enforcement strikes. They also run programs to stop people from turning violent. Agencies work together across borders and share data to spot threats early. Banks freeze funds and track hidden money

used by bad groups. Officials use better scanners, check passenger flight lists, and screen cargo.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the global threat of terrorism remains persistent and complex, requiring an adaptable, comprehensive response. Effective policies must address both immediate dangers and root causes like political instability and economic disparity. This crisis committee's role is to not only react but also anticipate future challenges through stronger international cooperation, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism frameworks, all while safeguarding human rights. A coordinated global effort is essential to counter terrorism, balancing security with justice as we strive for lasting peace and stability.

VI. QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What immediate steps should the international community take to counter emerging terrorist threats, especially those involving cyberattacks and unconventional warfare?
2. How can we address the root causes of terrorism, such as political instability, economic inequality, and ideological extremism, to reduce long-term risks?
3. What policies should be developed to prevent the financing of terrorism through illegal activities such as trafficking, and how can international financial systems be better secured against exploitation by terrorist networks?
4. What specific actions should be taken to prevent the recruitment of vulnerable populations, such as youth and displaced persons, by terrorist organizations?
5. How can the international community prevent state-sponsored terrorism while maintaining diplomatic relations with those involved?
6. What strategies should be employed to counterterrorism in fragile states and conflict zones where government control is weak or absent?
7. What measures can be taken to address the growing use of encrypted communication by terrorist groups without infringing on the privacy rights of citizens?
8. How should the international community handle rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists or individuals returning from conflict zones, while ensuring public safety?

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