SpIMUN 2019

Security Council
United Nations

"THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS"

Hello dear delegates!

My name is Jean-Romain, I am 19 years old and I am very glad and honoured to be your Security Council chair in the SplMUN 2019 conference! I am a 2nd year student in Sciences Po Lyon (Institute of political studies in Lyon) and I also take classes in European studies. Next year I will be studying in Vienna, Austria as an Erasmus student. I would like to carry on studies in public administration. I am also one of the two presidents of the MUN society in Sciences Po Lyon. I am used to the role of delegate in the conferences and for the first time I am about to chair a MUN committee in a conference, therefore I am really excited about it!

I found the idea of the Security Council very interesting, since it enables delegates to practice many diplomatic abilities. The Security Council is a small committee with only 15 members, a committee that, unlike the others, has coercive powers. This configuration will allow every delegate to speak and take part in the framing of the resolution as much as they want! You will also be able to develop your bargaining capacities, since the 10 non-permanent members must deal with the Permanent 5 and their right to veto!

Dealing with our topic, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts*, will enable us to discuss matters that the UN have already addressed, but we'll also have to consider the new challenges posed by terrorism in 2019!

I sincerely hope you will enjoy this topic and our study guide and I am looking forward to meeting you in April!

Kind regards,

Jean-Romain Francis

Dear Delegates,

I am delighted to be chairing at Security Council with Jean-Romain for this second edition of SPLMUN! I am as well a second year student at Sciences Po Lyon, and I am the other president of the MUN Sciences Po Lyon club! It is my first chairing experience in a conference, but my MUN experience started more than one year ago. I represented Egypt on the topic of terrorism at PragueMUN2018, and South Africa in SPLMUN2018, and Egypt once again at MainMUN2019. All three conferences were amazing, unforgettable experiences, in which I had lots of fun while learning lots of things. MUN is a unique experience, sort of strategic game rooted in reality. Even if it won't change the world (anyway, what will?), it helps us having a more comprehensive vision of it and of the others' views – which can be useful to avoid certain mistakes. It is a space for heated debates and fun, because each delegate is also determined to make new friends and have a good time. For all these reasons, MUN is so thrilling. Let's make this SPLMUN conference a great moment, and let's have passionate and fascinating debates in Security Council !

Friendly yours,

Augustin Rabouille

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THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

"The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.

In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security."

United Nations official website

History, powers and missions

The Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the UN, founded in 1945. The United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, victors of World War II, were at the origin of the will to create an elite council. The American President Roosevelt invited China to participate, and the British Prime Minister Churchill made France enter the council. From then these members have had a veto power: a negative vote from one of the five permanent members carries the power to reject a resolution. Since 1945, the permanent members have

generally been divided in two groups, that we can determine observing the similarities in the use of the veto power: Russia and China facing the US, the UK and France. [1]

The Security Council has huge powers and responsibilities: it is the only UN body to pass resolutions that are binding to all member states.

Its powers and missions are [1] :

- ✓ To investigate threats to international security
- ✓ To recommend a resolution process to the different committees
- ✓ To impose and lift sanctions on member States
- ✓ To enforce military intervention

The Security Council has – without fail – to follow three different steps in order to solve conflicts. It cannot miss one of these steps:

1. Sending envoys for investigations
2. Sending envoys for negotiations
3. If necessary, sanctions are passed by a resolution
4. Finally, the Security Council can use the force to stop the fighting or threat, by sending the Blue Helmets – the only UN armed force - thanks to a resolution

Organisation

The Security Council has a very particular organization, due to its missions and powers, which makes it different from other UN committees. Fifteen countries seat around a circular table, in the UN headquarters in New York, all year during.

The ten non-permanent members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly on a regional basis for a two-year term, starting on 1st January, with five of them being replaced each year.

Term	Africa			Asia-Pacific		Latin America and Caribbean		Western Europe and Other		Eastern Europe
2018	🟧 Ivory Coast	🟩 Equatorial Guinea		🟦 Kuwait		🟥 Peru				🟥 Poland
2019			🟦 South Africa		🟥		🟦 Dominican Republic	🟥 Belgium	🟥 Germany	
2020					Indonesia					

The temporary member States mandates between 2018 and 2020. Source: Wikipedia

For a resolution to pass – if the veto power is not used – nine out of the 15 countries must vote in favour.

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[1] Now This World (on YouTube): The problem with the UN veto power
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPAONq36HKg

The use of veto by a permanent member has happened hundreds of times since 1945. As striking examples, we can evoke Russia, that used it 12 times concerning a UN intervention in Syria; China, concerning Taiwan; and the US, concerning the Israeli colonies in Palestine and the American embassy in Jerusalem.

It is important to note that in practice, the threat of the veto is enough to keep resolutions off the table.

This particular organization has obviously faced critics, calling it an unfair and outdated balance of powers. Proposals have sprung to deal with them without reforming the Council. There is the concept of the "Moral restraint", a sort of "moral duty not to veto" in cases when atrocities are being committed. But it is still a decision entirely left to the good will of the permanent member States. Besides, some countries such as India, Brazil, Japan and Germany are claiming a permanent seat at the Security Council.

Presidency of the Security Council

The Presidency of the Security Council is embodied by a different country each month. The main roles of the President are to set the agenda, to preside the meetings and to oversee the operations in case of crisis. The President has the power to make presidential statements and presidential notes.

- *Presidential statements* are similar in format and content to resolutions, and are not legally binding. They are usually used when the Council cannot reach consensus or when the resolution process is blocked by a veto. The adoption of such statement requires consensus, and members can abstain to vote. It is signed by the President of the Security Council.
- *Presidential notes* are declarations of intent, an invitation for other countries to follow it.

In April 2019, during SPLMUN, the President of the Security Council will be Germany.

"THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS"

A definition of terrorism

"One person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter", said Yasser Arafat, late Chairman of the PLO (the Palestine Liberation Organization), in a 1974 speech before the United Nations. This statement shows us how complex and controversial defining terrorism among the international community has always been. In fact, there is no consensus on a common definition, and negotiations on how to define it occupy a prominent place in the UN committees' discussions. As the definition is the necessary beginning of the elaboration of solutions, it makes the fight of the UN against terrorism even more difficult. There are in facts disagreements when it comes to differentiate "terrorist crimes" from "ordinary criminal offenses", or to identify the author or the victim of the crimes.

We can however give a broad definition of terrorism as "*An anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby - in contrast to assassination - the direct targets of violence are not the main targets.*" [2]

In order to surpass the disagreements and make the international cooperation against terrorism more efficient, former Secretary General Kofi Annan proposed a common definition: "*Any action constitutes terrorism if it is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non- combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act*".

A short history of terrorism

Terrorism is an old phenomenon and has been perpetrated through different actors and means, from Guy Fawkes "Gunpowder plot"[3] to the world we know today, where terrorist attacks are repeated and can happen at any moment and (almost) everywhere.

The 21st century sadly consecrated a new form of terrorism, with the 9/11 attacks of Al-Qaeda on New York's World Trade Centre, that shocked the entire world. Here are some major events after the September 11th attacks, in the different areas of the world, and their authors (please note it is far from being an exhaustive list) :

- the 2002 Moscow Theatre Siege (Chechen Islamist separatists)
- the 2003 Istanbul bombings (a militant Turkish Islamic group)
- the 2004 Madrid train bombings (an Al-Qaeda cell)
- the 2004 Beslan school hostage crisis (in Russia); Chechen Islamist separatists
- the 2005 London bombings (Islamist extremists)
- the 2005 New Delhi bombings (Lashkar-e-taiba, Islamic extremists from Pakistan)
- the 2008 Mumbai attacks (Lashkar-e-taiba)

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[2] Source : PragueMUN2018 African Union Study Guide
[3] See : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunpowder_Plot

- the 2011 Norway attacks (right-wing extremists)
- In January 2015, five attacks in Ile de France, starting with Charlie Hebdo (Islamists and "Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula")
- the 13th November 2015 Paris attacks (ISIS)
- the March 2016 Brussels Airport attack (ISIS)

The Israeli - Palestinian conflict has also led to attacks that are called or not terrorist attacks, depending on the stakeholder. The second Intifada (1993-2008) involved suicide bombings against non-civilians and civilians.

Current state of terrorism in the world

According to the Global Index on Terrorism[4] , published in December 2018 by the Institute for Economics and Peace, an Australian think tank, 98 countries have been at least targeted once by terrorist attack on their soil in 2017. 18 814 people died because of terrorism in the world in 2017. It is to be noted that this number follows a downward trend since three years. This is mainly due to the military defeat of ISIS that has lost almost all its territory and financial resources, but still remains the most murderous terrorist organization.

The report underlines important facts to understand the current state of terrorism in the world, an ever-moving situation that can be hard to catch. Hence, it tells us which 10 countries concentrate 84% of the terrorist attacks in the world, by descending order:

1. Irak, 1st victim of ISIS
2. Afghanistan, where Taliban are intensifying their attacks against the Afghan State
3. Nigeria is the African country the most harmed by terrorism, with the Boko Haram group
4. Syria, with ISIS
5. Somalia
6. Egypt, where the so-called "Muslim brotherhood" leads attacks on Coptic Christians and tourists
7. Yemen
8. Pakistan
9. India
10. The Philippines

The 2018 report also underlines a new trend: the uprising of extreme right terrorism. It provoked no deaths in 2013, but up to 17 in 2017. These attacks have been perpetrated by isolated actors, linked with extreme right groups, white nationalists or anti-Islam movements. 12 attacks of this type have happened in the United Kingdom, six in Sweden, two in Greece and two in France. In the US, Donald Trump's election has been determining, rising up the number of extreme-right terrorist attacks to 30 in 2017.
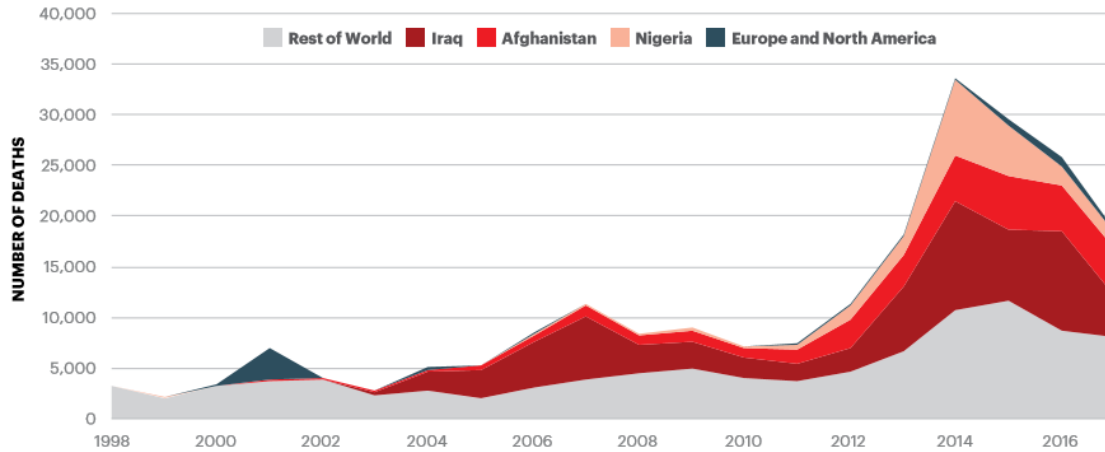
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[4] Sources : index of Terrorism 2018 and L'Express (please refer to the "Sources"section at the end)

Because numbers and patterns are sometimes more striking than words, here are some schemes from the Global terrorism index 2018:

FIGURE 2.1

Deaths from terrorism, 1998-2017

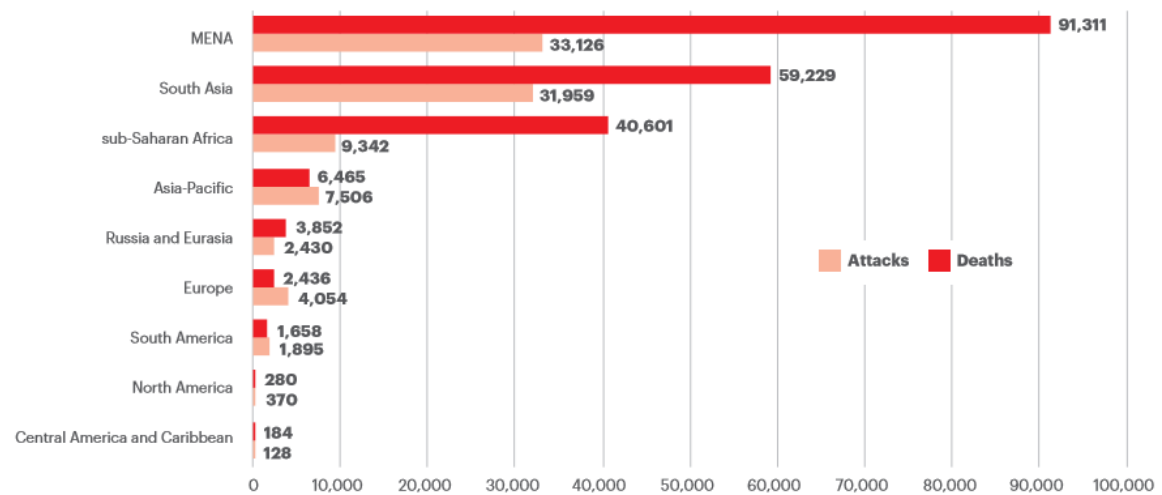Since peaking in 2014, deaths from terrorism have fallen 44%.

Source: START GTD, IEP Calculations

FIGURE 2.5

Attacks and deaths from terrorism by region, 2002-2017

The largest number of deaths were recorded in the MENA region, with over 90,000 deaths from terrorism since 2002.

Source: START GTD, IEP Calculations

(MENA = Middle East and North Africa)

PAST ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONCERNING COUNTERTERRORISM

The way towards an international coordination

The United Nations and more particularly the Security Council have been addressing the issue of international terrorism **since the 1990's**, notably with the rise of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The first actions consisted in sanctioning states that were suspected of collaborating with terrorist organisations (such as Sudan in 1996) and in calling member states to coordinate to fight terrorism[5]. In 1999, the Security Council created a committee called *Committee 1267*, designed to deal with the sanctions against Al-Qaeda[6].

The attacks of **September 11th 2001** in the United States were a breaking point of the international action against terrorism. The Security Council decided to **compel member states to implement measures to prevent and criminalise terrorist activities** and to create a new **Counter-Terrorism Committee** (CTC), made to control the action of the member states regarding their fight against terrorism[7]. In order to help implement the policies of the CTC and to help member states, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) was added to the CTC in 2004.

During the years of 2000 several measures were taken by the United Nations to improve the international action against terrorism. In 2004, Resolution 1540[8] calls member states to **forbid selling weapons of mass destruction to private groups,** including terrorist organisations. The UNSC also explored the possibility to create a **compensation fund** for victims of the international terrorism, financed by volunteer donations and by goods and assets taken from terrorist organisations.

Right after the World Summit of 2005, the General Assembly and the Security Council enacted further measures to fight terrorism, prohibiting through Resolution 1624 all terrorist acts of any motivation and all inducement to a terrorist act. The UNSC also called member states to **deny political asylum** to individuals convicted to have committed any of these acts.

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its developments (2006)

In September 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted **the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**. For the first time, all member states agreed on a common ground to coordinate their efforts[9]. It is a document composed of a resolution[10] and a plan of action[11], reviewed every two years. This global strategy is **composed of 4 pillars**:

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[5] http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1269
[6] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaida_Sanctions_Committee
[7] https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/
[8] http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1540(2004)
[9] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy

1) Addressing the conditions conductive 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 role of the United Nations system in that regard,

4) Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

At the same time the General Assembly endorsed the creation of the **Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force** (CTITF), with the mandate of "strengthen[ing] coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system"[12]. It works with the contribution of **38 international entities** (see figure 1). To support the work of the CTITF, the United Nations created the **United Nations Centre of Counter-Terrorism** (UNCCT).
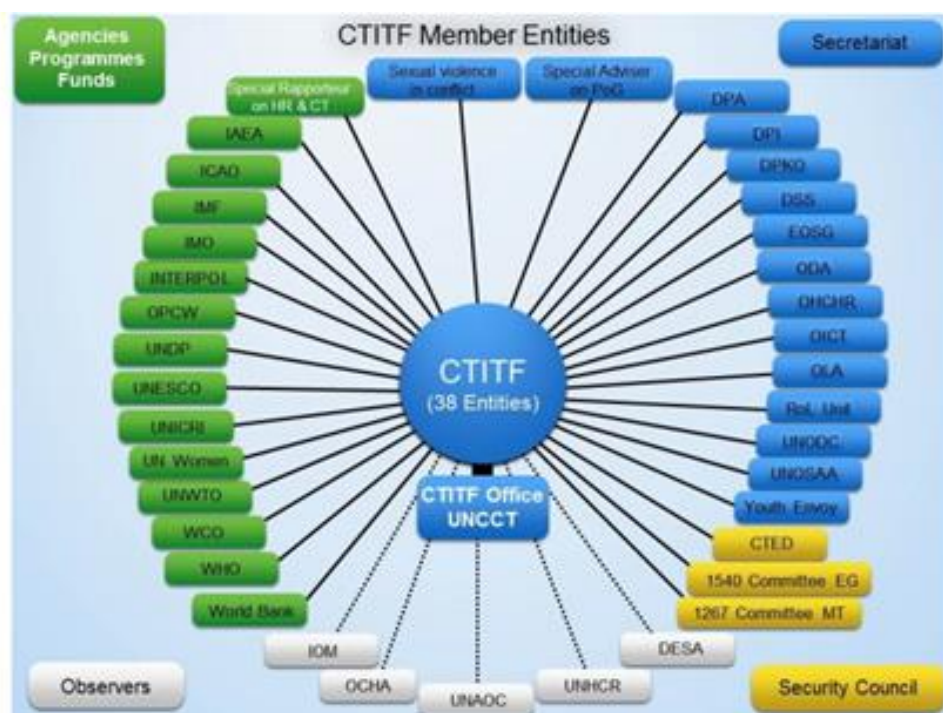

Figure 1: The CTITF Member Entities

In the early 2010's the Security Council opened the debate on the threat to international peace and security aroused by terrorism, a threat increased by the transformations of international terrorism. The Council voiced concerns about the **more diffused forms of terrorism, based on extremism, fanaticism and intolerance**. It also recognised the necessity of a multidimensional action, since military action and intelligence services would not be enough to stamp out terrorism.

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[10] https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/504/88/PDF/N0550488.pdf?OpenElement
[11] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy#plan
[12] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en

The creation of the UNOCT and the latest actions of the UN

The United Nations took a step further in 2017, to improve the international action and to respond to the issues posed by the rise of the Islamic State, initiated by Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The UNCCT and CTITF were moved into a new **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**[13]. They were previously established in the Department of Political Affairs. The UNOCT has **five missions**:

1) Provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system.

2) Enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (former CTITF) Task Force entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

3) Strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States.

4) Improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

5) Ensure that due priority is given to counterterrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

The **latest discussions of the Security Council**[14] on the threat of terrorism addressed the issue of collective action on a global, regional and national range, and its commitment to respecting the UN Charter and the international law. The council highlighted the fact that the international community should act not only on terrorist acts themselves, but also on the spread of violent extremist ideologies that may lead to terrorist behaviours. The Council also laid the emphasis on the role of the UNOCT in this international fact, mentioning the organisations to target (ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra Front and other dissenting groups) and the international organs with which it should deepen cooperation, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime[15], Interpol[16] and the International Civil Aviation Organization[17]. Moreover, they proposed three axes of cooperation between the states to fight international terrorism in Resolution 2396:

1) Border security and information sharing.

2) Judicial Measures and International cooperation.

3) Prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.

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[13] https://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/

[14] http://undocs.org/S/RES/2396(2017) and http://undocs.org/S/RES/2395(2017)
[15] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Office_on_Drugs_and_Crime
[16] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpol
[17] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Civil_Aviation_Organization

The United Nations created many bodies and implemented many measures in the last 25 years to fight international terrorism. Unfortunately, it remains a huge and concerning phenomenon nowadays and poses issues to the international community.

CURRENT ISSUES

The year 2018 counted many terrorist acts, killing, wounding and traumatising civilians all around the world, especially in Africa and in the Middle East, but also in Europe. The profile and the "career" of the terrorists show that they are often confronted to these violent extremist ideologies in jail and/or on the Internet. Small religious places and families sometimes also constitute a fertile ground for the spreading of such ideologies. The international community should also be aware that in some cases, even institutions as schools or governments support promote them as well. As already emphasised by the Security Council, it is important that the international community addresses not only the terrorist organisations and acts themselves, but also the spread of violent ideologies, particularly online. This issue is currently being dealt with by the European institutions for instance[18]. The question of internet regulation linked with terrorist contents is important in 2019.

Various actors such as non-governmental organisations are also willing to address the issue of the respect of the rule of law in countries struck by terrorism and where counter-terrorism policies have been implemented, such as in France after the 2015 attacks[19]. This also reminds the criticisms against the *Patriot Act* adopted by the United States' government in 2001 after the attacks on the World Trade Centre. Respect of law and human rights is paramount for the United Nations and is reminded in the 2017 Resolutions of the Security Council concerning the struggle against terrorism.

It may also be interesting for the Security Council to address the organisation of the coordinated fight against terrorism. There are many bodies within the UN dealing with international terrorism and their coherence and efficiency could be discussed by the committee.

As mentioned by the recent discussions of the Council on terrorism, fighting the roots and causes of terrorist ideologies and acts implies to address the question of understanding between civilisations, to figure out the link that may exist between discriminations, rejection and exclusion of certain groups within the countries and the development of extremist ideologies[20].

Furthermore, one pressing issue about terrorism is the fate of foreign terrorist fighters who came to serve organisations in the Middle East or in Africa, the conditions of their arrest, judgement, detention and reintegration. This could be a factor of destabilisation. Indeed, countries are often reluctant to bring captured fighters back and the fate of these potentially dangerous people is uncertain. It is all the more pressing as the public opinion of these countries is divided on the question, such as in France in January 2019[21].

Finally, a topic discussed but with no real conclusion in the United Nations is the issue of the victims of terrorism, the relatives of the killed, the wounded, the people who lose assets because of international terrorism but also the children brought to war zones by foreign

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[18] https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-regulation-on-removal-of-terrorist-content-set-for-mid-september/
[19] https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/09/a-permanent-state-of-emergency-in-france/
[20] http://undocs.org/S/RES/2396(2017)
[21] https://onu.delegfrance.org/Return-of-terrorist-fighters-facing-this-major-challenge

fighters. There are many situations where the international community could act regarding the compensation, aid and psychological support to victims.

Even though the United Nations and the Security Council have already implemented many measures and created bodies to fight terrorism, there are in 2019 still many issues to be discussed and settled to defeat international terrorism.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER

❖ How could the regional and global cooperation between countries in military, judicial and cultural matters be deepened to fight international terrorism?

❖ How can the bodies of the UN (UNOCT, CTC…) specialised in the fight against terrorism be improved to be more efficient regarding the struggle against terrorist organisations and the international cooperation of member states?

❖ What prerogatives and powers can the Security Council transfer to those specialised bodies to improve the international action?

❖ How can the international community and the Security Council sanction the states convicted to fund and support terrorist organisations?

❖ How can each state act against terrorists, the spread of violent ideologies and terrorism organisations? What policies may be implemented?

❖ How can the international community ensure the rule of law and the respect of individual and collective freedoms in counter-terrorism policies?

❖ How can the international community struggle against radicalisation of individuals, especially in jails?

❖ How can the international community prevent the broadcasting of terrorist contents, extremist, violent and fanatical ideologies online?

❖ How can the international community help member states deal with foreign terrorist fighters concerning their arrest, trial and reintegration?

❖ What actions can be taken regarding the victims of terrorism?

FURTHER READING AND SOURCES

The state of terrorism in the world in 2018

Institute for Economics and peace : Global terrorism Index 2018:
http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2018/12/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf

Past Actions by the UN
[1] http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1269

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaida_Sanctions_Committee

[3] https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/

[4] http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1540(2004)

[5] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy

[6] https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/504/88/PDF/N0550488.pdf?OpenElement

[7] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy#plan

[8] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en

[9] https://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/

[10] http://undocs.org/S/RES/2396(2017) and http://undocs.org/S/RES/2395(2017)

[11] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Office_on_Drugs_and_Crime

[12] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpol

[13] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Civil_Aviation_Organization

Current Issues

[1] https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-regulation-on-removal-of-terrorist-content-set-for-mid-september/

[2] https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/09/a-permanent-state-of-emergency-in-france/

[3] http://undocs.org/S/RES/2396(2017)

[4] https://onu.delegfrance.org/Return-of-terrorist-fighters-facing-this-major-challenge

✓ L'Express : Le terrorisme recule mais reste un fléau :
https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/monde-le-terrorisme-recule-mais-reste-un-fleau_2051970.html

- ✓ Wikipedia: History of terrorism: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_terrorism

- ✓ Official Website of the United Nations: un.org

- ✓ PragueMUN2018 Study Guide

- ✓ Now This World (on YouTube): The problem with the UN veto powerhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPAONq36HKg