



UNGA-DISEC



Agenda- UN counter terrorism committee review

Letter from the executive board

Greetings Delegates,

We welcome you to UNGA-DISEC at MUNIITI 2018. By your participation in this committee, you will be thrown into a world of fast-moving international politics, affecting nations' sovereignty and civilians. During the course of the conference, you will discuss about colonization of space and how does it affect the member states.

Prior to your attendance in committee, we urge you all to understand the multi-dimensional nature and history of this issue. To begin your research, thoroughly read the background guide and additional links and articles provided for your convenience. Then, expound upon this general background with a country-specific analysis of policies and creative solutions to address current problems. To stay faithful to your country's position, we suggest you have an understanding of your nation's political and economic climate, as well as scientific advancements that may affect the given topic.

Enter the committee with researched ideas and a desire to exact policies to improve the humanitarian status of member nations.

We wish you luck for the days of debating and hope you surprise us with creative solutions.

P.S-The background guide is not to be used as a source of information for proving a statement in a committee. This guide is only intended for helping you to kick start your research.

President,

Vice President,

Director,

Tejas K. Jain

Sarthak Singh Parihar

Ashwin Samuel

Background of the committee

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA or GA; French: Assemblée Générale AG) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), the only one in which all member nations have equal representation, and the main deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN. Its powers are to oversee the budget of the UN, appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receive reports from other parts of the UN and make recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions. It has also established numerous subsidiary organs.

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the [Charter](#) or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

Introduction

Guided by Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), the CTC works to bolster the ability of United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions. It was established in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States. The CTC is assisted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which carries out the policy decisions of the Committee, conducts expert assessments of each Member State and facilitates counter-terrorism technical assistance to countries.

Within the framework of its efforts to enhance the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States and strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has become aware of the many judicial challenges faced by regions affected by terrorism. Judges play a key role in implementing counter-terrorism measures and promoting counter-terrorism cooperation within a rule-of-law framework. However, there are few, if any, forums in which they can discuss the challenges they face in this regard and exchange good practices.

Historical Analysis

By its resolution 1535 (2004), the Security Council established the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate was established to enhance the ability of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to monitor implementation of Council resolution 1373 (2001), and effectively continue the capacity-building work in which it was engaged.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate was established for an initial period ending on 31 December 2007 and is subject to a comprehensive review by the Security Council by 31 December 2005. In response to the request of the Security Council made on 23 November 2005, the Counter-Terrorism Committee has prepared the present report to assist the Council in conducting that review.

Among the key elements of the review, the Committee decided to assess the Executive Directorate's assistance to the Committee as set out in Security Council resolution 1535 (2004), and in particular its assistance to the Committee in attaining the goals of the revitalization process, as spelled out in section III of document S/2004/124. The Committee also included a review of the extent to which both the mandate and functioning of the Executive Directorate enable it to best fulfil that role in the future and, where necessary, to include recommendations.

Functions

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 Counter-Terrorism Implementation 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; and
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.

4 Pillars of the committee

The General Assembly reviews the Strategy every two years, making it a living document attuned to Member States' counter-terrorism priorities. The fourth review of the Strategy took place in June 2014 and was preceded by a report from the United Nations Secretary-General that included an overview of the evolving terrorism landscape, recommendations to address challenges and threats, and a compilation of measures taken by Member States and United Nations entities to fight against terrorism.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the form of a resolution and an annexed Plan of Action composed of 4 pillars

1. Addressing the 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 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.

Present Scenario

On 8 October 2018, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the Security Council adopted updated guidelines on substance and procedure. With the purpose of streamlining and enhancing its work, the Committee's updated guidelines will shorten the time frames for drafting and reviewing country assessment reports.

In terms of substance, these guidelines establish a new document called *Preliminary assessment and observations (PAO)* that will be replacing the earlier *preliminary conclusions and overview*, and will include an analysis of the terrorism threat, trends, concerns, risks, and challenges; the identification and evaluation of Member States' progress, strengths, shortfalls, and effective and good experiences and practices; and comments and recommendations for technical assistance. The guidelines also state that any visit by the Counter-Terrorism Committee should be planned and conducted in a manner that allows the visiting delegation to discuss its key factual findings, observations, and recommendations, as well as to seek the State's agreement to the prioritized technical assistance needs, during the visit. The updated guidelines further establish four types of visit report: (i) comprehensive; (ii) focused or regional; (iii) follow-up; and (iv) advocacy.

Challenges faced by CTC

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) issued its latest Trends Report. Titled “The Challenge of Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Research Perspectives,” the report outlines a number of issues United Nations Member States are facing related to foreign terrorist fighters.

The current wave of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) shows clear differences compared to previous waves. The present wave is larger, increasingly global, and more diverse in terms of age, gender, and experience in conflict zones. These differences make the potential challenges associated with returnees and relocators significantly greater, but also more complex. One key challenge for Member States is to establish which returning individuals may pose a threat, or act as facilitators for acts of terrorism, in the future.

Despite military progress and enhanced counter-measures by Member States, the fate and location of a large proportion of foreign terrorist fighters is uncertain. Identifying and locating these remaining FTFs remains a critical priority for the international community, and is a major focus of the measures included in Security Council resolution 2396 (2017). This resolution calls on Member States to develop tailored prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies, including programmes that address radicalization in prisons, or are focused on the needs of children associated with foreign terrorist fighters.

The final question

Can UN Peacekeeping Work Within the Counterterrorism Paradigm?

The respective ethics, logic, and purposes of counterterrorism and peacekeeping are also in contradiction. Peacekeeping is premised on the idea of supporting a political process, while counterterrorism is military logic justified by the idea of creating the space for politics. In 1995, Boutros Boutros-Ghali's [supplement to his Agenda for Peace](#) was already arguing something similar: “the logic of peacekeeping flows from political and military premises that are quite distinct from those of enforcement; and the dynamics of the latter are incompatible with the political process that peacekeeping is intended to facilitate.” He expressed the position that UN peacekeeping is a different tool for conflict resolution and management that was worth preserving. The GWOT (Global War on Terror) has had a profound effect on UN peacekeeping. One is the claim that the UN must adapt to the “new” threat environment of “terrorism” and “violent extremism”; the latter concept being a tolerable synonym of the former in UN circles. Indeed, the GWOT takes away what makes UN peacekeeping unique: its impartial judgment. Although in principle the UN can speak to everybody, the GWOT declares that some actors are outside the legitimate realm of politics, and that exceptional measures must or can be taken against them.

New roads ahead

Of late the CTC has faced some critical attention for its inadequacies. There have been both exogenous and endogenous factors that explain the difficulties faced by the CTC in the effective pursuit of its elusive mandate to monitor the member states' commitment to stop financial, manpower and military supply-lines to terrorists. The reassertion by the General Assembly of interest in terrorism-related matters, as manifested in the adoption of the Global Strategy, is not an accident. Aside from challenging the Security Council's pre-eminence as a policy driver, the Assembly may be hoping for institutionalizing follow-up to the Global Strategy. The criticism against the CTC may not be as strident as it was against, for example, the Commission on Human Rights, for the CTC has not existed as long. Hence, the various institutional alternatives mapped out to consolidate and strengthen the counter-terrorism operations under one umbrella either within or outside the UN sound somewhat premature. Since informal adaptation is a way of life in the story of institutional evolution of the UN, status quo of continuing with the CTC in its present form alongside other mechanisms may well emerge as a convenient choice for some more time till the situation ripens. Depending on their viewpoint, the protagonists of the various proposals may receive this outcome with disappointment or elation.

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