

# DISEC

Disarmament and International Security Council

## Background Guide

**Excellence Academy Model United Nations  
EFZ Model United Nations Boot Camp**

July 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>



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## Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Patrick, and I am a second year at the No.2 High School of East China Normal University. I am a student who loves engineering, with much of my studies focusing on computer science and mathematics. I am from the beautiful city of Paris, France which is about 14 hours of flight from Shanghai. Last year, I had a blast at the EFZMUN serving as the committee director on the ECOSOC committee. Beyond that, I also archived several Outstanding Delegate and Best Delegate awards in MUNUC, Oxford MUNC and PKUMUNC. Besides chairing and participating in Model United Nations, I am also member of the Google X team, which I joined during my 2<sup>nd</sup> junior high school year, explaining my love for programming and coding. When not in class, I enjoy watching basketball games, listening to country music and reading about issues that the world is facing.

I am very excited to be running DISEC this summer with my assistant directors Candice Chen, Elin Shi and Kimberly Lu at EAMUNC 2016. Issues we will be discussing in the committee are of great interest to the director team. The central topic, counter terrorism, looks at the many different role players contributing to the problem of global terrorist activity. From ISIS to Al-Qaeda, we will dive deep into this complex issue and attempt to establish a way in which the international community can protect itself against this pressing danger. Of course, any decision to intervene comes with its own complications, so we will have to ask ourselves throughout the conference whether foreign intervention in places of operation by these groups, solves the problem or only makes matters worse.

I am greatly looking forward to conference and seeing the solutions that you all will come up with and debate over the course of the boot camp. If you have any questions or comments on the background guide, the topic, how exactly DISEC and the conference will function or suggestions on what you think directors should wear at conference, please feel free to shoot me an email. I will see you all at the camp!

Best Regards,

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## Board of Directors

### Director

Patrick Wu '18

No.2 High School of East China Normal University

### Assistant Directors

Candice Chen '18

No.2 High School of East China Normal University

My name is Candice Chen. I am a second-year student in No.2 High School of East China University. I'm very much excited to work with the committee and conference director, Patrick, and committee assistant director, Elin. I'm a student of class 6, which features humanity and culture. I've got lots of hobbies, among which are listening to music or watching American TV series etc. I've attended MUNUC, PKMUN, IMUNC and have achieved certain awards like Best Paper Writing. It was my passion for English that primarily motivated me to join the MUN. Yet, I was deeply attracted by the charm MUN has presented to me which made my enthusiasm for MUN to be endless. Hopefully after days of experience at the boot camp, you will fully realize the unique charm of MUN, actively participating in the conference and bravely exchanging ideas with you fellow delegates, and after all, do never forget to enjoy your conference.

Elin Shi '18

No.2 High School of East China Normal University

My name is Elin Shi, and I am a second year at the No.2 High School of East China Normal University. I am a student who is keen on lecturing and performing and I am one of the hostesses of the school's annual New Year Gala. I am a native of Shanghai, the most charming city in my eye. It was my great honor to be the delegate of EAMUNC last summer vacation, just like you guys, in the WFP committee. Since then, I've become a big fan of the Model UN. Last year, I also attended another EFZMUN conference on UNSC, and gained much experience and friendship with other delegates. Beyond that, I also attended PKUNMUN this March and

had a very tough but colorful time, which led me to think further more about the Model UN, the society, our country, and our world. Besides receiving several Best Delegate, Outstanding Delegate and Best Style awards in these conferences, what I experience the most is the spirit of MUN and MUNers. Welcome to this amazing world, let's change the world together!

### Kimberly Lu '18

No.2 High School of East China Normal University

Hi! My name is Kimberly Lu, a devoted MUNer who has taken an active part in Model United Nations for a year. Having participated in MUN conferences as a delegate for 6 times with a BD, a OD, two HM and a BP, I am going to play the role of assistant chair for the first time this summer and I'm already excited about this. I'm currently in 10th grade and about to enter 11th grade in Vancouver, Canada. I hope that the conference will be a great success and we'll all enjoy this experience.



## History of the Disarmament and International Security Committee

The Disarmament and Security Committee (DISEC), also known as the First Committee of the General Assembly, concerns itself primarily with issues dealing with global security and threats to peace. Each member nation of the UN is allowed a delegation (of no greater than five representatives) in DISEC, and the body meets for a four to five-week session every year beginning in October. [1] This year will mark the 72nd meeting of the First Committee and the United Nations.

DISEC has a very wide purview, in that it is charged with dealing with every threat to global peace within the Charter of the United Nations. [2] This charter charges the General Assemblies with dealing with issues that might concern DISEC, including "the general principles of co-operation and security, including the principles governing disarmament." [3] The purpose of the General Assembly is to provide a forum for discussion and debate amongst all member nations of the UN (and, under some circumstances, nonmembers), allowing for a diversity of opinion that is hard to find in smaller decision making bodies such as the Security Council. However, DISEC, like all other General Assembly committees, maintains an advisory role rather than one of direct action. In fact, Article 10 of the United Nations charter limits the power of the General Assembly, stating that its ultimate power is to "make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both." [4]

Voting in DISEC is identical to the other General Assembly committees. Substantive decisions on international peace and security are passed by a two-thirds majority in which every nation gets exactly one vote. Minor decisions and procedural motions are made by a simple majority of member nations. [5]

Despite its inability to pass treaties or laws that bind member states, DISEC nonetheless remains an integral part of the United Nations, as it serves as an invaluable measure of global opinion and a fair forum for international debate. Resolutions, the main instrument of legislation for DISEC, are considered very carefully by the rest of the United Nations, and the Security Council depends on DISEC for input on its decisions. Important action taken in the past as a result of discussions in DISEC



include the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Disarmament and Security Council has a mandate to protect the peace and stability of the world through open discussion and discourse, and has shown that this is an effective tool in the past. The role of DISEC is only set to grow as matters of international security become increasingly complicated and polarizing.

## Topic Area: Facing the Global and Diverse Threat of Terrorism

### General Statement of the Problem

On 13 November 2015, one hundred thirty people were killed in six simultaneous and coordinated terrorist attacks across the city of Paris. [6] Several hundred more were wounded in the attacks, which included suicide bombings, indiscriminate shooting, and hostage-taking. Two weeks prior, on 31 October, a Russian commercial jetliner exploded over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing all two hundred twenty-four passengers aboard. [7] The explosion was a result of a terrorist attack. A little over two years earlier, in June 2014, armed Islamist extremists seized control of Mosul, one of Iraq's largest cities, facing little to no resistance from the fleeing Iraqi military. These three incidents, considered independently, are little different from past terrorist threats to international peace and security. What is remarkable about these incidents, however, is that they were all orchestrated by the same group - the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (also known as ISIL, ISIS, the Islamic State, or Daesh). This terrorist group has demonstrated the capability to carry out "traditional" terrorist attacks, such as the bombing of the Russian Airliner, as well as more sophisticated operations, as seen in Paris and Mosul. Unlike other terrorist organizations, ISIL is a large and well-financed group. ISIL has conquered and currently administers territory in Iraq and Syria, sells oil on the black market to finance its operations, maintains an impressive social media presence, recruits from around the world, and carries out terrorist attacks. [8] While ISIL is evolving, and its objectives are not fully understood, it is clear that the group represents a new kind of terrorist threat to the world.

In its broadest sense, terrorism is the use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims. While there exists no formal internationally recognized definition of terrorism, terrorist acts were recently denounced by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as:

Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a

government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act. [9]

According to the UNSC, then, the term “terrorism” can be used to label almost any violent criminal act committed in order to induce fear among the general public. In practice, the term is selectively applied and almost always refers to acts committed by non-state actors. While the committee may find it prudent to further clarify or expand upon existing definitions, it is acceptable to rely upon the UNSC definition. For while definitions are important (and can have important consequences for policy), the primary responsibility of this body is to address issues that threaten international security.

ISIL is not the only way that terrorism is changing. Advances in technology have made the digital world a new battleground, with cyberterrorism emerging as a new threat. [10] While most terrorist groups lack the capability to directly attack a state's Internet infrastructure, it is possible for state-sponsored terrorism to disrupt a nation's economy or create fear through online channels. [11] States attacking each other through computer viruses or the revelation of classified information is an increasingly common tactic. [12] While this committee should consider the emergent possibility of independent terrorist organizations conducting cyber attacks, it is also important to note other ways in which the Internet can be used for terroristic purposes.

Terrorist groups use the Internet in a variety of ways, including propaganda, financing, training, and planning. [13] Propaganda takes many forms - ISIL even tweets about its victories. But the public face of a terrorist organization is only a small part of its propaganda machine. New members are also recruited, radicalized, and incited to violence online. [14] The Internet can connect donors and terrorists, allowing groups to finance their operations from funds acquired around the world. Lastly, groups can reach members across the globe in order to train for and plan attacks. The transnational nature of modern communication has allowed for sophisticated transnational attacks to be carried out with relative ease. [15]

While the causes of terrorism are debated, it is clear that a lack of strong government power can create or worsen terrorist threats. Recent political upheaval, especially in the Middle East, has increased the numbers of failed states and weak states. [16] In these states,

governments cannot adequately provide services or police its citizens. As a result, failed and weak states are breeding grounds for terrorism and radicalization. Both weak and failed states lead to large ungoverned areas, in which terrorist groups can operate openly. Weak governments can even be challenged directly by terrorists, as in Mali. [17] In other countries, such as Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon, revolution has led to chaos. Poor economic opportunities and lack of political agency often radicalize youth. Further, it has been hypothesized that climate change will increase the number of failed states. [18] As many nations come to face severe droughts and lack of water, the opportunities for unrest and radicalization will grow. Failed states are not a new phenomenon, but due to the unrest caused by the Arab Spring and perhaps even climate change, the ranks of failed states will most likely increase in coming years. Further, increased globalization has resulted in large streams of refugees from failed and weak states. And while the vast majority of refugees are peaceful, terrorist organizations can use large migrations as cover for their own operations. Moreover, refugees who are unable to assimilate or face poor economic and social prospects in their new countries are susceptible to radicalization. [19] The threat of radicalization is even greater in refugee camps, where conditions are poor and terrorist groups actively recruit. [20]

These threats - ISIL, cyberterrorism, and failed states - are quite diverse, and this committee is not expected to address them in similar ways. However, there are two important commonalities among these threats. First, they are substantially different from terrorist threats even a decade ago. While Islamic extremism and failed states are not new concepts, the threats they pose are evolving. Thus, the international community cannot rely on outdated paradigms to combat these threats. Second, these threats are global in nature. Again, transnational terrorism is an old tactic, but it is taking new forms. ISIL's sophisticated attacks across continents are a far cry from traditional suicide bombings, cyberterrorism knows no national borders, and failed states export their troubles across the world due to increased connectivity and globalization. These threats, then, are global and diverse, and the United Nations must address them as such. It is important to reiterate the powers of this body. The committee cannot declare war or engage threats directly. Many nations, such as the United States and Russia, have already taken action to address these

threats, as have regional bodies. The committee cannot force nations or alliances to change their policies. Rather, this body should seek to recommend solutions that involve the international community. In what ways can international cooperation be used to combat terrorist threats? Where do nations have the opportunity to work together? What programs can be created or enhanced to combat the sources of these threats in order to complement the military efforts already being undertaken by member states? It is from this vantage point that the committee will be most effective. Further, while other threats exist and may be considered by the committee during this session, it is essential that any resolution address, at least in part, the concerns outlined specifically in this guide.

## History of the Problem

While terrorism is no new threat to the world, the manner with which it is carried out has changed considerably, even within the past decade. While it is possible to trace terrorism back centuries, we will focus on the more recent past. One of the first major attacks to make global headlines was the 1983 suicide bombings of American and French barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in which two hundred ninety-nine people, almost all US and French soldiers, were killed. [21] The troops were stationed there as part of the United Nations' Multinational Force in Lebanon, serving as peacekeeping forces during the Lebanese Civil War. Modern terrorism reached Western countries with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland by Libyan terrorists, perhaps working directly under the guidance of Muammar Gaddafi, the then-leader of Libya. [22]

Terrorism not directly sponsored by states gained more attention with the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and 1998 US Embassy bombings. The world entered a new era of terrorism after the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States. In the post 9/11 world, there have been several pre- ISIS attacks in the West, including the 2004 London bombing, the 2005 Madrid train bombing, and the Charlie Hebdo massacre in France, which was carried out by two brothers identifying themselves as members of AQAP (al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula). [23]

While these attacks have been most influential in shaping global counter-terrorism policy, the world has seen too many terrorist attacks to recount here. It is safe to say, however, that virtually no region of the world is untouched by terrorism, from Chechnya to Mumbai. From the left-wing terrorist group FARC in Colombia to the Islamist al-Shabaab and Boko Haram in sub-Saharan Africa, terrorism is a tactic used the world over. As such, delegates are expected to research and understand the terrorist threats facing their own countries and regions. For the sake of brevity, only a few cases will be considered in depth here.

## ISIL

ISIL can trace its origins directly back to fellow terrorist organization al-Qaeda, and more specifically, one of al-Qaeda's numerous cells, al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). AQI, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was responsible for scores of bombings, kidnappings, and beheadings in Iraq following the 2003 United States invasion of the country. After al-Zarqawi was killed in 2006, leadership of the group eventually fell to an experienced Iraqi fighter, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. [24] AQI was weakened in Iraq in 2007 as a result of what is known as the Sunni Awakening. In the Sunni Awakening a large alliance of Iraqi Sunni tribes supported by the US fought against the jihadist group. However, AQI saw an opportunity to regain its power and expand its ranks in the Syrian conflict that started in 2011, and the group moved into Syria from Iraq. [25] By 2013, al-Baghdadi had spread his group's influence back into Iraq and changed the group's name to ISIS, "reflecting its greater regional ambitions;" namely, an Islamic State (or caliphate) consisting of land that is currently controlled by Syria and Iraq. Since then, ISIS, or ISIL, has engaged in a series of military campaigns and now controls large swaths of both Iraq and Syria. [26] Moreover, ISIL has begun to govern these territories. Aided by stockpiles of arms left in the region after the withdrawal of US forces, ISIL has proved to be a formidable military foe. Moreover, ISIL enjoys financial support through captured oil wells and transnational funding, while garnering popular support among some local Sunni Muslims who felt disenfranchised in Iraqi and Syrian politics. [27]

## Failed States

The world contains many failed or weak states, and each of these countries has a unique history. However, the case of Syria is particularly instructive. Syria's modern borders are mostly the result of a post-World War I agreement between the United Kingdom and France to divide the Middle East. [28] The borders drawn did not reflect ethnic considerations or any sense of identity among Arabs. While Syria gained independence 1941, the country remained quite unstable until 1966, when a military coup installed the Ba'ath Party into power. [29] The current president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, was elected to office in an uncontested election in 2000, and his regime has been characterized by authoritarianism. Between 2006 and 2009, Syria faced its worst drought in modern history,



and the country was weakened economically. [30] In 2011, peaceful protests broke out in Syria. The government responded with force, and the protests turned into open civil war. [31] Since 2011, various factions, including Assad's regime and ISIL, have fought for control of the country. [32]

The history of Syria highlights some common trends among failed and failing states. First, Syria was a former colony, and its borders were set arbitrarily by colonial powers. This resulted in several ethnic and religious groups, namely Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, living in one country. Assad, who is a member of the minority Alawite Shi'a, continuously oppressed and disenfranchised the majority Sunnis. [33] It is no coincidence that the groups opposing Assad in the Syrian Civil War, including ISIL, are largely Sunni. Second, the country experienced economic turmoil before it failed. The 2006 drought impoverished many areas of the nation, and Sunnis in particular faced dim economic prospects. Ethnic tensions, resentment of the authoritarian regime, and economic forces, combined with numerous other factors, created the conditions for civil war and ISIL. And while other countries, such as Libya, Yemen, Mali, and Somalia, face different circumstances, their histories follow similar patterns.

## Past Actions

In 2005, the United Nations met and, for the first time in its history, condemned terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes." [34] This effort, while mostly symbolic, was an important step in beginning the international community's response to terrorism in the wake of the September 11th attacks and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. During this meeting, states also agreed to strive towards a commonly agreed upon definition of terrorism and to begin discussing best practices for how they could prevent terrorism in the future. [35]

Also in 2005, the United Nations Secretary-General established the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). [36] The CTITF ensures that, while the primary responsibility for fighting terrorism lies with individual states themselves, the United Nations remains ready to help states in developing their policies in whatever ways it can. [37]

In September of 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. [38] This document is a global instrument designed to coordinate local, state, regional, and international responses to terrorist threats. [39] The resolution urges states to refrain from engaging in activities that may be supportive of terrorism, and urges states to collaborate with each other, the United Nations, and the rest of the international community in order to share information that will allow terrorists to be captured. [40] The document also urges states to abide by best practices for fighting terrorism and to abide by other United Nations protocols and documents designed to prevent terrorists from accomplishing their goals. [41] The document is necessarily broad and does not dive into the details of how states should go about preventing terrorism both within and beyond their borders. Nevertheless, the document is crucial as a central rallying point that sends a strong message about the international community's lack of tolerance for terrorists and terrorist activities. The document urges states to build their capacity to fight terrorist groups, but does not do very much to actually provide direct support to countries, especially developing countries and countries without extensive resources, to allow states to build this capacity. The document was an important step forward, but meaningful and substantive change was mostly left to international agencies and individual nations.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has passed several resolutions dealing with terrorism, but has largely been ineffective in promoting change in Syria due to gridlock. Nations, including the United States, France, and Russia, have undertaken campaigns against ISIL and other terrorist threats. However, due to the rapidly changing nature of the situation, significant action will likely be taken by member countries by February.

The past actions of the General Assembly have largely been vague and symbolic in nature. It is the task of this committee to create more substantive solutions for international cooperation that tackle specifically the new, global, and diverse nature of terrorism.

## Possible Solutions

There are many paths to take to combat terrorism, and many solutions will not be mutually exclusive. It is the task of this committee to weigh the costs and benefits of various options and create a resolution that most effectively addresses the problem of terrorism by allocating the United Nations' limited resources. Several possible solutions are presented below to provide a foundation for further research. These solutions are not the only possible solutions, nor are they necessarily the optimal ones. Each delegation must weigh and consider options in light of their countries' own interests and the interests of the international community. Ultimately, any resolution will need to be comprehensive and represent a compromise among many nations.

### ISIL

It is important to recall that it is not within this committee's purview to propose a military solution to the situation in Syria. However, it is prudent to consider how the UN can facilitate international military efforts. A strong UN presence could entail coordinating efforts of NATO, Russia, and others as they fight against ISIL. Any solution in this vein could strengthen individual states' efforts and more effectively defeat ISIL on the ground. On the other hand, an attempt by the UN to coordinate efforts may result simply in another layer of complication in an already complicated war; UN involvement could even hamper military efforts. The majority of the committee's focus should be off the battlefield. One approach to cripple ISIL is to block their income streams. While ISIL makes money in a variety of ways, it primarily relies on revenue from its captured oil wells. Strong UN action could work to take that oil off the market, possibly by strengthening crime-fighting efforts to stop black market oil purchases. Another possibility is to focus on limiting ISIL's online presence. Better monitoring, international information sharing, and targeted help to at-risk youth in key areas could stem the tide of radicalization.

The committee should also consider how to stop ISIL from gaining traction among refugees. One potential, if costly, solution would be to better track refugees leaving Syria. On the other hand, the body could focus on improving conditions at refugee camps and providing support for poorer countries already buckling under the weight of refugees.

## Cyberterrorism

In order to stop cyber attacks, the committee might recommend stronger penalties to be imposed on states who sponsor cyberterrorism. The UN's cybersecurity capabilities could also be strengthened in a number of ways. For example, the committee could decide to strengthen certain international agencies, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to detect and deter threats. Solutions need not come at the international level, however. One possibility would be to encourage developed nations to aid developing countries in securing their online infrastructure.

The committee should also consider the other ways in which terrorists use the Internet. More strictly regulating money transfers at the international level could prevent the flow of cash to terrorist groups, but it also risks infringing upon states' rights to regulate their own economies. Better intelligence sharing could allow states who discover terror plots online better and more quickly alert other states. Finally, the committee should consider how best to establish an online presence that could thwart radicalization and reach out to youth at risk of radicalization.

## Failed States

While the committee may look to address refugee problems from failed states, as mentioned above, it is also important to improve conditions in failed or weak states. How can the UN support weak states without encouraging terrorism? Encouraging peacekeeping forces to failed states can introduce order but may also encourage terrorist attacks against those forces. The committee might also consider increasing humanitarian support and logistical governing support to countries or regions within countries that are at risk of producing terrorists.

Another option would be to provide ways for disaffected youth in failed states to assert themselves politically. Whether by encouraging greater local governance or foreign investment, the committee has the opportunity to empower people who might otherwise be radicalized. At the same time, the body must balance hindering terrorist groups from operating in failed states without alienating the local populations.

These solutions can also be implemented at a regional level. Neighboring countries or regional bodies, such as the African Union, could be called

upon to help people in failed or weak states. Such partners could also be key in containing the problem within the original country.

## Conclusion

In considering all these possible solutions, among the many others that exist, the committee will have to balance fundamental tensions in the international sphere. How involved should the UN be at a local level, or should such efforts be left to individual countries and their allies? Should the UN focus more resources to combat groups that already exist or to prevent youths from becoming future terrorists? How can the rights of people in vulnerable areas be maintained while also ensuring international security? Balancing these concerns and analyzing the issues at stake carefully will be key to passing a successful and effective resolution.

## Bloc Positions

### Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico

Many of these nations experienced significant terrorist actions in the late twentieth century from groups such as the Shining Path in Peru and FARC in Colombia. In fact, Latin America was the hotbed of global terrorism in the 1980s; terrorism has since shifted towards the Middle East and North Africa in the 1990s. [42] Latin American governments waged violent yet successful campaigns against these groups, such as Peru's 12-month manhunt and capture of the leader of the Shining Path, Abimael Guzman, in 1992. Terrorism in contemporary Latin America is mostly confined to Colombia, which is on pace to experience over 1,000 attacks in the current decade. [43] Additionally, nations such as Mexico experience significant amounts of violence from drug cartels, which, while perhaps not technically terrorism, can have a similar destabilizing effect. Most of the nations in this bloc will not want external interference into their own matters, but some nations that are strong allies of the United States will support their counter-terrorism plans.

### Africa: Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda

African nations face diverse threats from both Islamic groups and failed states. Nigeria-based Islamic group Boko Haram has been deemed the deadliest terrorist group in the world, ahead of the Islamic State. [44] The group is particularly effective due to its adaptive military strategies and its cross-border networks in the surrounding states of Niger and Chad. ISIL itself also has a presence in North Africa, with a group in Libya having committed several attacks on foreign embassies in the capital and a group in Tunisia having carried out a massacre of foreign nationals at a museum earlier this year. [45] Despite this activity, these nations have varying opinions of the west and as such will feel differently about global intervention strategies. Some nations might be willing to join more regional counter-terrorism alliances. Most of these nations do not have the resources to combat any significant terrorist presence themselves, either domestic or transnational.



## Asia and Oceania: India, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore

These nations have greatly varying priorities on terrorism. Many of the small Pacific island nations, such as Tuvalu, have little interest in a far-off conflict. Indonesia, however, often bears witness to terrorist attacks on police and law enforcement officials and contends with some of its citizens travelling to join the Islamic State. [46] The Philippines has had recent success brokering peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, an organization that has been active for nearly half a century. [47] Meanwhile, nations such as Australia have to deal with the human displacement impact of terrorism and have concerns about national stability with a high population of refugees. Australia and Japan are two of the region's largest contributors to international counterterrorism efforts through regional bodies such as ASEAN. [48]

## Europe & North America: Canada, Germany, Italy, Ukraine

Many of these nations are bearing the brunt of the human displacement aspect of the Islamic State's campaign. Some nations, such as Germany, have been more willing than others to accept refugees. These nations have not witnessed the transnational violence that France, the UK, and Spain have but nonetheless are a large part of global anti-terrorism efforts through such bodies as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, NATO and the EU. Some of the more fragile states of Europe, such as Moldova or Belarus, are at a higher risk of internal violence and less able to counteract it. [49] These nations also face a more serious threat from cyberterrorism yet lack a cohesive multilateral strategy to prevent attacks, which is important considering the high levels of interconnectedness most of the European nations have. [50]

## The West: France, Israel, Spain, United Kingdom, United States

These nations have been the victims of some of the most high-profile attacks in recent years and are at the forefront of international counterterrorism efforts. They favor a sort of heavy-handed military approach that enables them to track and kill targets abroad and detain suspects at

home. The UK and Spain have had to deal with more domestic threats from groups like the IRA and the ETA in the past, but their concerns are now focused on Islamic militants and cyberterrorism. Israel remains much in the center of the Islamic world and faces threats from Hamas in the Palestinian territories, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and ISIL itself. Overall, this bloc faces a cyberterrorism threat on both a private and public infrastructure level and the challenge of apprehending these criminals across international boundaries.

### Domestic Threat from Failed States and Islamist Violence: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria

This group of nations suffers the most from terrorist violence. The Islamic State is incredibly active in Iraq and Syria, carrying out hundreds of attacks a year and killing over 6,000 people in 2014. [51] Al-Qaeda has a significant presence in Yemen, targeting government installations and hospitals, as well as using the country as a training ground for many other terrorist initiatives. [52] Al-Qaeda, though weakened in Afghanistan and Pakistan, still carries out many attacks, often in concert with other smaller groups. The governments of most of these nations are also remarkably poorly equipped to counter terrorist violence. Nearly all of these nations are among the most fragile states and as such, have little to no effective government interventions as a deterrent to violence. [53] These nations will require large amounts of aid to combat their terrorist threats. However, as these countries recognize their own forms of government as valid, they will reasonably be wary of any resolutions proposed that will threaten their internal institutions as they currently are.

### China, Russian Federation

China considers its main terrorist threat to be from various ethnic minorities. [54] These groups have carried out a few attacks in the past few years. China however, is known to engage in cyberterrorist activity, including on the US. [55] China often does not cooperate with the United States on counterterrorism initiatives but does work with regional partners such as Indonesia, India, Russia, and Kazakhstan. Experts do not

expect China to take significant military action against the Islamic State as, thus far, Chinese officials have only been advocating for diplomatic solutions to the conflict. Meanwhile, Russia faces terrorist violence in the North Caucasus region due to a multitude of reasons, including separatism, ethnic-tensions, and Islamist extremism. Russia has also displayed a willingness to work with other countries on counterterrorism initiatives through its participation in a Euro-Atlantic Alliance and an alliance with China, among others. [56]

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## Glossary

**Al-Qaeda:** Terrorist group led by Osama bin Laden prior to his death most notable for carrying out the 9/11 attacks.

**Al-Shabaab:** A terrorist group operating in East Africa. Most notable for attacks in Kenya, and for some of its groups pledging allegiance to the Islamic State.

**Cyberterrorism:** The politically motivated use of computers and information technology to cause severe disruption or widespread fear in society.

**Data infrastructure:** the structure needed for the operation of a society as well as the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function, and in particular the online and data economy.

**Failed states:** States that can no longer perform basic functions such as education, security, or governance, usually due to fractious violence or extreme poverty.

**The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant:** A terrorist group operating in Syria and Iraq which claims to be a caliphate, and has carried out numerous high profile attacks such as the November 13th attack in Paris. Known for brutality and being largest group in the world by assets. Also known as ISIS, ISIL, the Islamic State, and Daesh.

**Non-state actors:** Entities that participate or act in international relations. They are organizations with sufficient power to influence and cause a change even though they do not belong to any established institution of a state.

**Peacekeeping operations (PKO):** missions sent by the UN composed of and funded by UN member nations in a need based manner (there is no standing UN army). They receive a mandate from the Security Council.

**Radicalization:** A process by which a person to an increasing extent accepts the use of undemocratic or violent means, including terrorism, in an attempt to reach a specific political/ideological objective.



**Refugee:** A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

**Shia Islam:** The second largest sect of Islam, most prominent in Iran and Iraq. Fights between Sunni and Shia groups have been ongoing for millennia.

**State Sponsored Terrorism:** The act of a sovereign state tacitly or openly supporting a terrorist group or terrorist actions with resources, financial or otherwise.

**Sunni Islam:** The largest sect of Islam, prominent in many Middle East states.

**Terrorism:** While no uniform international definition of terrorism exists, the UNSCs most recent definition of terrorist acts is most relevant.

**Transnational terrorism:** Terrorism that crosses national borders. Often refers to terrorist organizations launching attacks in states that they are not located in, or individual terrorist crossing national borders to commit an attack.

**Weak states:** States that can no longer perform all basic functions such as education, security, or governance, usually due to fractious violence or extreme poverty. Weak states are in danger of becoming failed states.

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## Country Matrix

Afghanistan  
Argentina  
Brazil  
Canada  
China  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Egypt  
France  
Germany  
Ghana  
India  
Iran  
Iraq  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Lebanon  
Mexico  
Pakistan  
Russian Federation  
Saudi Arabia  
Singapore  
South Africa  
Spain  
Syria  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
United States