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## Seventy-eighth session

Item 101 (s) of the provisional agenda\*

### General and complete disarmament

## Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/75](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures. As at 31 May 2023, the Secretary-General had received replies from nine Member States and seven international organizations, as well as the European Union.

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\* [A/78/150](#).



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## I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [77/75](#), entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, called upon all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery; appealed to all Member States to consider early accession to and ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and encouraged States parties to the Convention to review its implementation; and urged all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

2. The Assembly encouraged cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in that regard.

3. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures, including national measures, for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and to report to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

4. By a note verbale dated 31 January 2023, Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issue by 31 May 2023. Letters dated 31 January 2023 were also dispatched to relevant international organizations, including relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, for the same purpose. Member States and relevant international organizations were invited to provide executive summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General, while their submissions in extenso would be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([www.disarmament.unoda.org](http://www.disarmament.unoda.org)), if so requested by the Member State or international organization. The replies received are contained in sections II and IV of the present report. A reply from the European Union was received and is reproduced in section III, in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution [65/276](#). Any views received after 31 May 2023 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

## II. Replies received from Governments

### Burkina Faso

[Original: French]  
[25 May 2023]

The issue of measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is of concern to the entire international community because it is linked to matters of peace, security and development, and Burkina Faso, anxious to protect these values that are so dear to our shared destiny, works daily to prevent any threat that might endanger them. Accordingly, Burkina Faso is implementing legal instruments, including:

- Universal instruments: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention; the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, of 1999; the International

Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, of 1997; the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Security Council resolution [1267 \(1999\)](#) concerning Al-Qaida, the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) on measures taken by States to combat terrorism and control borders.

- Regional instruments: the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and its three additional protocols; the African Union plan of action on preventing and combating terrorism in Africa (2002); African Union Decision No. 256 (XIII) on the criminalization and suppression of the payment of ransom to secure the release of hostages (2009).
- Subregional instruments: the Nouakchott Process; the constitutive agreement of the Group of Five for the Sahel; the counter-terrorism strategy of the Economic Community of West African States and its plan of priority actions 2020–2024.

In addition, at the institutional level, Burkina Faso has established bodies including:

- The National Arms-Control Commission.
- The National Counter-Terrorism Coordination Office.
- The National Financial Information Processing Cell.
- The National Agency for Biosecurity.
- The National Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Authority.
- The National Nuclear Energy Authority.
- The National Authority for the Implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
- The Technical Secretariat of the National Authority for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

On the legislative and legal fronts, Burkina Faso has recently taken the following measures aimed at combating terrorism in general and at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction: Act No. 25-2018/AN of 31 May 2018 establishing the Criminal Code; Act No. 40-2017/AN of 29 June 2017 establishing the Code of Criminal Procedure; Decree No. 2018-0974 of 19 September 2018 providing for the establishment, organization, remit and operation of a Special Brigade for Counter-Terrorism Investigations and Combating Organized Crime; Act No. 005-2017/AN of 19 January 2017 providing for the establishment, organization and operation of judicial units specializing in the suppression of economic and financial offences and organized crime; Act No. 006-2017/AN of 19 January 2017 providing for the establishment, organization and operation of a judicial unit specializing in the suppression of acts of terrorism; Act No. 84-2015/CNT of 17 December 2015 amending Act No. 60-2009/AN of 17 December 2009 on the suppression of acts of terrorism in Burkina Faso; and Act No. 16-2016/AN of 3 May 2016 on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso, with its rather worrying security situation, is striving to implement its international commitments in conjunction with measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. It encourages relevant bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

## Colombia

[Original: Spanish]

[31 May 2023]

In the face of the latent threat posed by weapons of mass destruction to international peace and security, preventing terrorists from acquiring those weapons is a common goal of all States and is a priority and constitutional mandate for Colombia.

Colombia has traditionally been distinguished by a commitment and capacity to confront this threat. To do so, it has been necessary to strengthen national technical and operational capabilities.

This report will highlight the main actions taken by Colombia to achieve this objective.

First, in 2021 Colombia adopted a national anti-money-laundering policy from document 4042 by the National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES) on combating the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. That policy is designed to improve the system's effectiveness regarding anti-money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

This public policy aims to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute actions associated with the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also aims to recover assets resulting from these activities. The policy will be carried out until 2026, with an indicative value of 10.392 billion Colombian pesos.

Earlier, in 2015, various national entities (such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Superintendence of Finance, the Attorney General's Office and the Financial Information and Analysis Unit) signed an inter-agency cooperation agreement for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1988 \(2011\)](#), [1718 \(2006\)](#) and [1737 \(2006\)](#), Financial Action Task Force recommendations 6 and 7, and article 20 of Act No. 1121 of 2006. The agreement aims to suspend and prohibit the handling of funds or other assets associated with terrorist acts or groups.

Furthermore, Colombia is a State party to 11 international counter-terrorism instruments and is making significant efforts to move towards the ratification of all relevant conventions. For example, Colombia is part of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which seeks to structure and develop international cooperation, policies, practices and effective strategies for confronting terrorism.

In the Western Hemisphere, Colombia is a party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism of the Organization of American States and actively participates in the activities of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, a body that aims to strengthen the national capacity of States in the fight against terrorism, which Colombia chaired twice, in 2006 and 2013.

In 2021, Colombia joined the United Nations Security Council project "Strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in Latin America in line with resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#)", implemented by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. As a result of this project, the Committee has provided legislative and technical assistance and is currently organizing in-person and online training sessions for scientists and decision-makers in the areas of biosafety and biosecurity.

Lastly, a course for first responders from Latin America and the Caribbean on responses to chemical incidents and emergencies was held in Bogotá in August 2022 with the support of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. This

course, taught by national first responders, benefited 29 emergency personnel members from approximately 16 countries in the region and one from Spain, with such excellent results that a new iteration will be conducted during the second half of 2023.

## **Cuba**

[Original: Spanish]

[31 May 2023]

Cuba neither possesses nor intends to acquire weapons of mass destruction. It strongly supports their total and complete prohibition and elimination. Furthermore, Cuba rejects and condemns all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, by whomever, against whomsoever and wherever committed, regardless of motivation.

Cuba does not allow and has never allowed terrorist acts of any kind against any State to be carried out, planned or financed on its territory.

The Comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Strategy was updated in 2022 and, under the Strategy, an inter-agency commission, chaired by the Vice-President of the Republic, was established to follow up on its implementation.

Cuba has also ratified the 19 international conventions relating to terrorism. The commitment of Cuba to combatting terrorism was made a constitutional norm by including it in article 16 of the new Constitution, adopted by referendum on 24 February 2019. That article reaffirmed the firm position defended by Cuba on the repudiation and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in particular State terrorism.

The new Criminal Code, Act. No. 151 of 15 May 2022, approved by the Cuban Parliament, sets out penalties for all acts of terrorism, including those involving weapons of mass destruction.

Act No. 143/2021 on criminal procedure, which came into force on 1 January 2022, allows the country to update its legal norms while improving the procedure for investigating these acts and for international cooperation in confronting the scourge of terrorism and its financing.

Decree-Law No. 33/2021 on Amending Decree-Law No. 202 (24 December 1999) on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, approved in 2021, made it possible to include new substances to Schedule 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

All the country's programmes in the nuclear, chemical and biological fields have always been strictly peaceful and are aimed at the socioeconomic development of the Cuban people. These programmes are under the rigorous control of the relevant national authorities and are subject to verification by competent international bodies.

Cuba has a reliable and effective system for the national implementation of its international obligations as a State party to instruments such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment.

Following the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Cuba reaffirmed that promoting the universalization of the Treaty also involves preventing terrorists from acquiring such weapons.

We oppose the manipulation of the so-called “fight against terrorism” for the purposes of promoting wars, military interventions, interference in internal affairs and violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Such manipulation is one of the main sources provoking the arms race.

Cuba is firmly committed to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, a key instrument in the international effort to combat this scourge. It also supports the central role of the United Nations General Assembly in coordinating this strategy, with the assistance of all its Member States and on the basis of respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

## **El Salvador**

[Original: Spanish]

[27 April 2023]

At the national level, the Armed Forces are participating directly with and in support of the National Civil Police through the implementation of the Territorial Control Plan in the fight against gangs. These criminal structures have been classified as terrorist groups by the Supreme Court of Justice since 2015, leading to actions such as the increase in Safe House Plan rapid response operations.

In incidence areas containing terrorist offenders, personnel presence has been increased through the different Joint Community Support Groups, Joint Task Groups, Task Forces and the Trident Naval Task Force, as well as through increased deployment of and control by Sumpul Command at different uninhabited border points. These actions are undertaken in order to prevent the smuggling of weapons and ammunition for these terrorist groups. Domestically, security measures were reinforced in military warehouses and during the screening of new personnel in order to prevent suspected terrorists from infiltrating the Armed Forces.

Notably, El Salvador is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Through the Financial Investigations Unit of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, El Salvador also seeks to prevent and detect money- and asset-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the country. However, there is currently no information linking Salvadoran gangs to international terrorist groups, nor is there any evidence of the existence of these types of weapons in the country.

## **Honduras**

[Original: Spanish]

[29 March 2023]

The Legal and Military Audit Department decides on matters that fall within the competence of the Armed Forces. As guarantors of the laws in force, international conventions and United Nations resolutions, including in the specific case of the resolution on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, we are willing to faithfully comply, bearing in mind the primary responsibility for maintaining world peace and international security.

It is essential to note that article 5 of the Control of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Related Materials Act identifies the Ministry of Defence as the competent organ to carry out control activities, such as ensuring compliance with

provisions related to the manufacture, importation, distribution and sale of firearms and related materials.

## India

[Original: English]

[31 May 2023]

The pursuit of global peace faces unprecedented challenges from terrorism, which threatens to endanger the very foundation of democratic societies.

India is greatly concerned by the increasing linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and is fully cognizant of the need to urgently address this grave threat to humanity through international cooperation and within the United Nations framework.

Threats arising from terrorism transcend borders, necessitating a robust and coordinated response at the national and global levels. The international community must augment its efforts to eliminate the risks of sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of covert networks, terrorists and armed non-State actors.

Having fought the menace of terrorism for many decades, India, through the annual resolution, adopted by the General Assembly, on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, has drawn the attention of the international community to the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the potential for their exploitation by terrorists and non-State actors for hostile purposes. In the resolution, tabled since 2002 and adopted by consensus, the Assembly calls upon Member States to support international efforts and urges them to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. India is pleased that resolution [77/75](#) was adopted without a vote and received the support of 91 sponsors and cosponsors.

India believes that it is incumbent upon every Member State to combat terrorism, dismantle its support infrastructure and curb its linkages with weapons of mass destruction. For its part, India has a comprehensive law in its domestic legislation, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005, which effectively translates at the operational level the firm commitment of India to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. In 2022, India amended the Act to include the prohibition of financing for any activity prohibited under the Act and other relevant acts, and to enable financial and other measures to prevent such financing.

India believes that multilateral export control regimes contribute to the goal of non-proliferation through guidelines for export controls and lists of specific goods and technologies whose exports should be regulated. The national export control system of India is consistent with the highest international standards. Its national export control list of dual-use material, equipment and technologies, called “Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies”, is updated annually, in view of emerging trends and technologies. India is a party to all 13 international instruments accepted as benchmarks for a State’s commitment to combat all forms of terrorism, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. India has also ratified instruments such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment.

Recognizing the role of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) in preventing the risk of access by non-State actors to weapons

of mass destruction, India engages with the Committee's reporting and review process regarding national measures. India believes that outreach efforts under resolution 1540 (2004) to various countries and regions will also complement the implementation of the objectives of Assembly resolution 77/75. India fully supports the Committee's enhanced cooperation and coordination with international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), other relevant United Nations bodies such as the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Security Council's counter-terrorism committees.

India believes that government-industry partnership contributes to an effective export control system. The Government of India, along with its industry partners, engages in outreach activities comprising region-specific and sector-specific events.

India actively participates across various multilateral forums, including through the United Nations, IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and other relevant forums to step up efforts and international cooperation to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. India has regularly participated in the International Conference on Nuclear Security hosted by IAEA. India also participates in the IAEA Nuclear Security Guidance Committee for the development and review of nuclear security documents and is an active participant in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Nuclear Security Contact Group. The Indian Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership conducts international training courses, workshops and technical meetings to strengthen global nuclear security.

## Jordan

[Original: Arabic]  
[13 March 2023]

Jordan collects and exchanges intelligence with various countries on various weapons of mass destruction (radiological, chemical and biological). It has reinforced border crossings with equipment to detect such materials. The competent counter-terrorism units carry out practical exercises on how to handle dangerous materials and deal with terrorist incidents. Although terrorist organizations have limited capacities in this area, we should not rule out the possibility that terrorist organizations might use radioactive, chemical or biological materials to carry out terrorist operations inside or outside conflict zones, depending on the availability of trained and experienced personnel and the materials in question.

We believe that a range of measures should be taken to address the threat of terrorist groups acquiring weapons of mass destruction, including the following:

- Laws should be enacted to regulate and control the manufacture, production, storage and circulation of hazardous materials and the industries in which they are used. The competent regulatory authorities should enforce and enhance security measures for the places where such materials are stored and for the personnel charged with handling them.
- Cooperation and exchange of information between intelligence agencies should be enhanced, especially with regard to foreign fighters, including their particulars, names, nationalities and technical and combat experience.
- The capabilities and tools needed to control borders and official crossings should be enhanced, especially for countries near or neighbouring conflict zones, in order to curb the smuggling of dangerous materials and infiltration by terrorist elements.

- Local communities and various State institutions should be included in prevention methods. Media and educational institutions should be used to disseminate awareness programmes, which could contribute to expedited response and mitigate the negative repercussions of such situations.
- We believe that decisive and timely joint action to achieve clear goals within specific timetables is the main criterion for overcoming regional crises, challenges and threats in all their forms. Such action must also be accompanied by serious, effective and coherent political will at the local, regional and international levels. Jordan stands ready to devote all its expertise and capacities to achieving integration and coherence in any way that guarantees the realization of security and sustainable regional and global development.

In addition to the above, the following are the most important actions being taken by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to confront the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists:

- National plans have been developed to deal with incidents involving weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials. There are standard operating procedures to respond to incidents involving such materials and weapons.
- Exercises have been carried out at the national level to ensure a rapid and coordinated response to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials so as to minimize their effects and any resulting loss of property or life.
- The relevant security agencies and national institutions are provided with the necessary capabilities to address the threat of weapons of mass destruction and dangerous materials in order to raise national capabilities to address this threat, through supporting parties.
- National committees have been formed to review legislation on the control of import, transport and handling of dual-use materials to ensure that such materials do not fall into the wrong hands.

## Philippines

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2023]

The Philippines, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/75](#), has the following relevant measures for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction:

### **Strategic Trade Management Act of 2015**

The Strategic Trade Management Act of 2015 was enacted in response to emerging proliferation threats and in accordance with the international obligation of the Philippines under Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) to enforce effective measures and domestic controls to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, to uphold international peace and security, and to foster economic growth by facilitating trade and investment through the responsible management of strategic goods. The National Security Council's Strategic Trade Management Committee and the Department of Trade and Industry were created under the aforementioned law, while the Anti-terrorism Council – Program Management Center was designated as the secretariat of the Committee to provide administrative and technical assistance. Relative thereto, the Center, as secretariat, shall develop guidelines pertaining to administrative appeals, based on

Rule VII, section 2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Strategic Trade Management Act.

### **Biological and Toxin Weapons Act of 2023**

Pursuant to section 46 (j) of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, the Anti-Terrorism Council is empowered to take measures to prevent the acquisition and proliferation by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction. The Anti-terrorism Council – Program Management Center, being the coordinating and programme management arm of the Council, leads the inter-agency meetings and coordination activities to facilitate the drafting of the bill entitled “Biological and Toxin Weapons Act of 2023”, which aims to strengthen the national security of the Philippines by instituting minimum biosecurity measures to prevent biological agents and materials from being weaponized by terrorists. Through concerted efforts with various agencies, this proposed measure would prevent, prohibit and criminalize the unlawful development, production, use and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.

### **Chemical Weapons Act of 2020**

The Anti-Terrorism Council – Program Management Center, designated as the secretariat of the Philippine National Authority on the Chemical Weapons Convention under Executive Order No. 39, 2022, spearheaded the technical working group under the Council, which drafted the proposed bill prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, known as the “Chemical Weapons Act of 2020”. The proposed legal measure espouses that the Center would serve as the secretariat and implementing arm of the Philippine National Authority on the Chemical Weapons Convention. The bill aims to establish a legal framework that would prohibit the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, retention, transfer and use of chemical weapons in the Philippines, thereby strengthening the country’s export controls to prevent the transfer of chemicals or equipment that could be used to produce chemical weapons.

In addition, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has adopted the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives Emergencies Standard Operating Procedure as a guideline for undertaking measures to prevent the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives threats and weapons of mass destruction.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Logistics Service Command has intensified the implementation of security measures in all its facilities to prevent the probable pilferage and unauthorized access of threat groups to these assets. Moreover, regular physical accounting of and validation of documents on firepower assets in the inventory of all units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are conducted to ensure proper monitoring and compliance with security procedures.

Concerted efforts and cooperation among the agencies concerned, the Government and the general public are necessary to deter terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The immediate passage of the aforementioned bills and the proper implementation of existing laws are essential steps towards ensuring the security of the Philippines and the global community against the threats posed by chemical weapons and other hazardous substances.

## Republic of Moldova

[Original: English]

[18 May 2023]

The Republic of Moldova recognizes the linkage between fighting against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and is fully committed to preventing and countering the risks and threats generated by this phenomenon. The national authorities have made considerable efforts to develop national legal instruments to comply with the international legal framework and Security Council resolutions, including in the field of investigation and criminalization of offenses related to terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Among the most important normative measures mentioned by the Republic of Moldova is the completion and amendment of article 134<sup>11</sup> of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova, which provides the exhaustive list of terrorist offences. Article 140<sup>1</sup> of the Criminal Code establishes criminal punishments and penalties for the use, development, manufacture, acquisition, accumulation or conservation, direct or indirect transfer, storage or transportation of weapons of mass destruction. Paragraph (2) of article 279<sup>1</sup> of the same Criminal Code criminalizes self-training or benefiting from training in the field of terrorism, the acquisition of knowledge and practical skills regarding the manufacture or use of devices or explosives, weapons of mass destruction or other arms, or harmful or hazardous substances, as well as specific methods or techniques that may contribute to the commission of one or more terrorism-related crimes and/or offences.

In addition, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted Law No. 120/2017 on the prevention and combating of terrorism, which provides the normative and organizational framework for preventing and combating terrorism by establishing the way to coordinate measures taken by competent authorities in the field of preventing and combating terrorism, as well as the rights, responsibilities and guarantees of persons who participate directly in counter-terrorist operations or those who suffered from terrorist acts.

Other important legal instruments include the Parliament Decision No. 239/2020, approving the national strategy for preventing and combating money-laundering and terrorism financing for 2020–2025 and its action plan, as well as article 34 of Law No. 308/2017 on preventing and combating money-laundering and terrorism financing, which provides for the application of financial sanctions related to terrorist activity and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. To effectively implement financial sanctions, Government Decision No. 792/2020 regarding the regulation on the implementation procedure for targeted financial sanctions related to terrorist activities and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was adopted.

The dual use of materials related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is regulated by Law No. 1163/2000 on the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods.

Government Decision No. 701/2018, approving the regulation on the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorism, regulates the process of planning, organizing and implementing anti-terrorist protection measures for critical infrastructure facilities, by rationally using human, financial and material resources, taking into account the vulnerabilities thereof.

On 18 April 2008, the Republic of Moldova ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Currently, the Moldovan Government is working on a draft law on the national programme for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the mitigation of risks derived from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and its action plan.

The Republic of Moldova is an active participant of Project Geiger of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), aimed at strengthening the capacities of law enforcement authorities from the Black Sea region to combat the threat of radiological and nuclear terrorism.

On 6 September 2022, by Order No. 297 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the concept for the establishment and functioning of the national focal point for firearms was approved, which would also support the implementation of General Assembly resolution [76/232](#) on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

### **III. Reply received from the European Union**

#### **European Union**

[Original: English]

[30 May 2023]

The European Union remains strongly committed to preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear, chemical, biological and missile materials, know-how and technology. The European Union and its member States apply comprehensive export controls and implement stringently related Security Council resolutions. All European Union agreements with third countries contain a clause on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The European Union continued, in 2022, to promote the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material as fundamental elements of the global nuclear security and anti-terrorism architecture. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of Counter-Terrorism continued to implement the Council of the European Union decision 2018/1939 on Union support for the universalisation and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, aiming to increase the number of adherents to the Convention and build capacity for its implementation.

The European Union also contributes to the implementation of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Nuclear Security Plan for 2022–2025 of the International Atomic Energy Agency through Council decision (CFSP) 2020/1656, which provides funding for various Agency activities in the field of nuclear security.

The European Union continued to support the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, which aims to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect and respond to nuclear terrorism, as well as other multilateral efforts, like the Nuclear Security Contact Group.

The European Union and its member States have been at the forefront of international efforts to bring into existence a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The European Union engaged in diplomatic outreach to facilitate an outcome document for the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It was regrettable that an outcome document could not be agreed. The European Union supported the work

of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Investigation and Identification Team, as well as the Declaration Assessment Team.

The European Union continued its political and financial support for the implementation and universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including through various Council decisions in support of universalization, capacity-building, enhancing biosecurity, in particular in Africa, and the Convention's intersessional programme for 2022. Implementation continued regarding the Council decisions of 2019 in support of strengthening biological safety and security in Ukraine and Latin America. At the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, the European Union reaffirmed its support for the Convention as a key pillar of the rules-based international order, recalling its longstanding efforts to strengthen the Convention. The European Union will be actively engaged in the work of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention that was established during the Review Conference.

The European Union actively participated in the open consultations on the comprehensive review of the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

The European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, gathering 62 partner countries, is aimed at mitigating the risks related to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials, strengthening preparedness and nurturing security culture and governance by establishing national and regional coordination and governance structures. Since 2010, 100 regional projects have been supported. The network allowed the European Union to undertake training exercises in order to enhance visibility and concretely assess their impact.

The European Union supports the implementation, functioning and universalization of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. In 2022, its twentieth anniversary was marked by the organization of an international conference. Through various projects, the European Union financed outreach activities relating to the Hague Code of Conduct, with the aim of supporting its full implementation. The European Union will continue to support the Hague Code of Conduct through a new Council decision in the coming years.

The European Union also works to strengthen efforts to stop proliferation-related trade in weapons of mass destruction, related materials and delivery systems by promoting adherence to the principles of the Proliferation Security Initiative. By implementing the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and Australia Group export control lists, the European Union contributes to preventing the access of terrorist networks to weapons of mass destruction and related technology.

In its bilateral relations with third countries and regional organizations, the European Union also aims to strengthen the global non-proliferation infrastructure, enhance chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security and contribute to the prevention of acts of terrorism.

## IV. Replies received from international organizations

### Collective Security Treaty Organization

[Original: Russian]

[30 May 2023]

Established in 2002, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is an alliance of independent democratic States with common interests in collective security.

The CSTO collective security strategy for the period to 2025, approved on 14 October 2016 by a decision of the Collective Security Council, the supreme body of CSTO, states that the Organization will participate in strengthening international efforts in the area of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, combating international terrorism and extremism, and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The joint statement by the States members of CSTO of 17 October 2016 on countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) indicates that the CSTO member States are convinced of the critical importance of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and related technologies and materials.

The CSTO secretariat understands the importance of a comprehensive approach to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and relies on agreed positions. More than twenty-five joint statements have been issued by the States members of the Organization on this subject. A systematic approach to this issue should be based on strengthening all non-proliferation regimes, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, effective national export control systems, and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), which provides for a broad set of measures to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The CSTO member States also express their deep concern at the threats of chemical terrorism and of chemical weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorist groups. The joint statement of the States members of CSTO of 9 March 2022 on strengthening cooperation and coordination in efforts to combat chemical terrorism emphasizes that the development, manufacture, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention and use of chemical weapons by terrorist organizations are a threat to the objectives and principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention and should be an area of focus of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

As responsible parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the CSTO member States ensure close interaction during sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. During its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions (December 2020–April 2021 and December 2021–March 2022), joint statements were adopted in which the CSTO member States strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons, including in armed conflicts.

In view of the growing danger of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists, CSTO reaffirms its determination to join the entire international community in combating terrorism. CSTO believes that strengthening the role of regional organizations is particularly relevant. CSTO supports the ideas expressed by the United Nations Secretary-General, in the new agenda for peace, on the importance of reducing strategic security risks through preventive regional activities.

CSTO views the United Nations as its main international partner and is interested in strengthening its role. This approach is enshrined in the joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CSTO member States of 15 September 2021 on the commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and strengthening cooperation to ensure their strict observance.

CSTO is pleased to note and support the further expansion of practical cooperation under the existing memorandums with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

CSTO has developed practices to deprive international terrorist organizations of their breeding grounds, including by countering drug trafficking and the use of information and communications technologies in the interests of international terrorist activities.

For the past five years, the special services of the CSTO member States have been engaged in special operation “Mercenary”. Its main purpose is to block the channels of recruitment, entry and exit of citizens of CSTO member States for participation in terrorist activities and to neutralize the resource base of terrorist organizations. It has proven its effectiveness and relevance in practice. Throughout its entire duration, the participating CSTO member States have not reported any attempts by terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

The CSTO secretariat is ready to share its experience in conducting special operational and preventive operations and to hold trilateral meetings on strengthening cooperation and exchanging experiences in the area of combating international terrorism and extremism. CSTO invites international and regional organizations to participate in observing its exercises and operations. The mechanisms for partnership of that kind exist within our organization and enable it to flourish.

## **Commonwealth of Independent States**

[Original: Russian]  
[30 May 2023]

The States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are working systematically to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture. Joint measures are carried out in that regard, with due consideration for the leading role of the United Nations and the development of cooperation with other international institutions and specialized bodies. Relevant information on measures being taken is regularly submitted by Commonwealth countries to the 1540 Committee of the Security Council.

The regulatory and legal system established in CIS is being steadily improved to take into account the changing situation and threats, including the possible acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

On 15 October 2021, the leaders of the CIS member States concluded a treaty on countering the legalization (laundering) of the proceeds of crime, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The treaty is aimed at strengthening international cooperation and expanding mutual assistance in this area, and at depriving criminals of the proceeds of crime and other means used to commit crimes. To implement the treaty, the parties are cooperating in the harmonization of legislation; the provision of legal assistance, including the seizure, freezing and confiscation of funds; information exchange; investigative activities; and the recognition of lists of individuals, entities, groups and

organizations involved in terrorist activities and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The programme of cooperation among the CIS member States in combating terrorism and other violent extremism for the period 2020–2022, approved by a decision of the Council of Heads of State of CIS on 11 October 2019, has been implemented. Under the programme, organizational and practical measures were carried out for the following purposes:

- To identify and dismantle laboratories used to assemble equipment and means for perpetrating terrorist and extremist offences, including materials for manufacturing weapons of mass destruction.
- To prevent, detect and suppress activities associated with assisting terrorist organizations and criminal networks, groups and individuals involved in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in arms, ammunition, explosives, explosive devices, toxic chemicals and biological pathogens, nuclear material and radioactive substances.
- To ensure the protection of sites that pose a high technological and environmental risk.

On 14 October 2022, the Council of Heads of State of CIS approved the next programme of cooperation among the CIS member States in combating terrorism and extremism for the period 2023–2025.

The programme is aimed at further improving cooperation among the CIS member States, statutory bodies and sectoral cooperation bodies in combating terrorism and extremism, taking into account the current state, trends and dynamics of the situation in the fight against terrorism and extremism in the world, as well as at conducting special training of counter-terrorism forces and entities in suppressing criminal activity connected with the use of weapons of mass destruction.

The Anti-Terrorism Centre of the CIS member States coordinated joint counter-terrorism exercises entitled “The Commonwealth and counter-terrorism 2022”, during which the coordination of security agencies, special services and law enforcement bodies was fine-tuned to detect and suppress plans to carry out terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure facilities and densely populated areas.

Systematic efforts continue to be made to improve the exchange of information related to security and law and order among States, in particular with regard to preventing crime in the territories of the CIS member States, and to develop automated databases that could help to detect and expose cross-border crimes and to detain individuals for whom an international arrest warrant has been issued.

There is no information pointing to the production or acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction or their components, or regarding their access to technologies for their manufacture, in the CIS region.

## **International Maritime Organization**

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2023]

The main International Maritime Organization (IMO) instruments relevant to General Assembly resolution [77/75](#) and Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) are:

(a) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome Convention), 1988; the Protocol for the Suppression

of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, 1988; and corresponding protocols of 2005;

(b) Chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, and part A of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, which was adopted in 2002 and entered into force on 1 July 2004.

The Code focuses on the protection of port facilities and ships through preventive measures to deter and detect unlawful acts, primarily addressing physical security, control of access and security procedures. The Rome Convention of 1988 and its 2005 protocols make it illegal under international law to attack ships or platforms fixed on the continental shelf, including offences relating to acts of terrorism on board ships. They also criminalize the carriage of weapons of mass destruction and terrorist fugitives and introduce provisions to enable the boarding of vessels on the high seas pursuant to such offences.

IMO has developed and implemented a comprehensive global technical cooperation programme which focuses on assisting States in the national organization of maritime security and the implementation, verification and enforcement of and compliance with the provisions of chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, the Code and the Rome Convention and its protocols, as well as assisting States in the long-range identification and tracking of ships for enhanced maritime situational awareness. IMO has also cooperated with the International Labour Organization on the production of the ILO/IMO Code of practice on security in ports, which provides practical recommendations for addressing security in ports, in line with chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

IMO has forged strong links with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the World Customs Organization and other international and regional partners in the delivery of technical cooperation projects for maritime and border security, and has participated in numerous in-country needs assessment missions with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate related to Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#), in which IMO serves as the maritime component of a multi-agency United Nations border management security team. IMO is likewise engaged with several of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact working groups, most notably the Working Group on Border Management and related to Counter-Terrorism and its work to help States implement comprehensive and coordinated approaches to address the threat of terrorism in the context of cross-border activities.

### **Related instruments**

Considered an extension to the provisions of chapter VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (in effect since 1 January 2004) provides guidance on the carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form, and, in this regard, defines “high-consequence dangerous goods” as those which have the potential for misuse in a terrorist event and which may, as a result, produce serious consequences, such as mass casualties, mass destruction or, particularly for class 7 (high-consequence radioactive materials), mass socioeconomic disruption.

The International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (in effect since 1 January 2011) similarly provides security provisions for “high-consequence solid bulk cargoes with high potential security implications”, which have the potential for misuse in an unlawful act and which may, as a result, produce serious consequences, such as mass casualties or mass destruction.

IMO has also developed model courses on security awareness and training to enhance the preparedness of port facility personnel, seafarers and maritime workers to deal with, for example, acts of terrorism and the carriage of weapons of mass destruction.

## **Office of Counter-Terrorism**

[Original: English]

[24 May 2023]

### **Work of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact**

In 2022, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and its Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, continued to promote coordination and coherence in support of Member States' efforts to prevent and respond to emerging terrorist threats, including those related to the misuse of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. The Working Group held four quarterly meetings and received regular briefings on technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives implemented by its members.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, together with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and other implementing partners, continued to implement the third phase of the joint project on ensuring effective inter-agency interoperability and coordinated communication in case of chemical and/or biological attacks. Substantial planning took place in 2022 to organize three workshops for 2023, focusing, respectively, on information exchange, cooperation between operation and emergency response centres, and deployment.

Furthermore, under the joint project on the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks in accordance with Security Council resolution [2341 \(2017\)](#) and soft targets in accordance with resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#), with a focus on developing an additional component on soft targets protection, the Office, together with the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), updated "The protection of critical infrastructures against terrorist attacks: compendium of good practices" of 2018, in response to requests from Member States participating in workshops under this project.

### **Work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre**

In 2022, the Office, through the Centre and its multi-year global programme on preventing and responding to weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, delivered outreach and capacity-building activities at the global, regional and national levels, benefiting approximately 3,600 officials from over 100 Member States.

Activities included high-level events, including one on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, an advocacy event with the Parliament of Albania on the Convention's ratification and an event for Jordan on the results of a four-year project on enhancing national capabilities to prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons or materials. The capacity-building activities to counter radiological and nuclear terrorism included a table-top exercise and workshop on nuclear detection and forensics for the Mediterranean basin and South-Eastern and Eastern Europe; a

table-top exercise and workshop on nuclear detection and information-sharing for the Baltic countries; a training on radiological and nuclear hazards for Türkiye; a training for Tunisian officials on critical infrastructure and key resources protection; and an exercise on radiological attacks with the Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network.

In addition, the Centre launched several activities focusing on preventing and responding to biological and chemical terrorism, including by providing targeted support to Iraq, Jordan and Malaysia, in partnership with the United States of America and INTERPOL.

Together with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Centre supported Jordan in drafting a national crisis response plan for a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear terrorist attack and in organizing field exercises to test it, engaging more than 2,500 participants. Moreover, the Centre facilitated the training of Jordanian first responders at the Organization's Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence in Czechia.

In partnership with INTERPOL, the Centre completed three reports as part of its global threat study on non-State actors and their potential use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives materials, focusing on the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. Two additional reports will focus on South-East Asia and Western, Central and Southern Asia; and the Americas.

## **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

[Original: English]  
[26 May 2023]

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is actively involved in preventing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists, which includes providing support to its participating States in the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The OSCE group of friends of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) as well as the Coordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues under the Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation also play an essential role in strengthening international efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and in promoting global peace and security through information exchange and cooperation.

OSCE meets the requests of its participating States for support in implementing resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) by providing assistance through country-specific dialogues, regional workshops and concrete measures, such as improving export and border controls, harmonizing national legislation with international standards and strengthening chemical and biological safety and security. OSCE also offers a range of training and capacity-building exercises for participating States, with the aim of strengthening their capabilities and promoting information-sharing and coordination for developing and implementing national action plans.

In previous years, OSCE has been particularly active in States in Central Asia, as well as Mongolia and Ukraine, working closely with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and its Expert Group, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other international entities.

In Central Asia, OSCE has provided comprehensive support to the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in improving their export controls and creating and updating their control lists. It has also helped these countries develop procedures for

identifying dual-use goods, and has conducted various activities to raise awareness of legislative and regulatory measures and enforcement. OSCE has held multiple regional peer review meetings on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), providing participating States with opportunities to exchange best practices, challenges and experiences on non-proliferation efforts. These meetings have brought together the countries of the Central Asian region in different formats, including with the participation of the Republic of Belarus and Mongolia, and have further helped to strengthen regional cooperation in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Specifically, in the Kyrgyz Republic, OSCE worked closely with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce to organize regional and national events, such as the peer review meetings held in Istanbul and Issyk-Kul; and a series of national events on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. OSCE had also provided assistance for the development of two voluntary national action plans on resolution 1540 (2004), and, in 2021, assisted in developing a third national action plan for the period 2022–2025. In addition, it helped to develop key legal documents, such as the law on export control and its relevant by-laws, the draft law on biological safety and draft governmental decrees related to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In 2023, OSCE continues to assist the Ministry in implementing the measures outlined in the national action plan, including the capacity development of State agencies involved in export control; to promote regional and international cooperation; and to provide expert support in strengthening legislation related to resolution 1540 (2004).

In Ukraine, OSCE also supports the Government's efforts to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, in line with resolution 1540 (2004), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. It has been implementing projects in Ukraine since 2018 to support the strengthening of the country's chemical and biological safety and security.

Through its chemical safety and security projects, OSCE has supported the strengthening of the legislative and regulatory framework of Ukraine in the field of chemical safety and security, as well as border controls over the cross-boundary movement of controlled and toxic chemicals. OSCE has also established a national reference centre for the identification of controlled and toxic chemicals, supplying cutting-edge laboratory analytical equipment and developing documents on inter-agency cooperation.

OSCE continues to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Ukraine through a project aimed at strengthening the country's biological safety and security. It is supporting the development of a specialized comprehensive training course, the establishment of a multimedia classroom and the development of a learning management system. It has also supported the harmonization of Ukrainian legislation on biosafety and biosecurity with international standards by developing the draft law on biosafety and biosecurity and relevant by-laws.

OSCE remains committed to continuing to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to promoting non-proliferation efforts in the regions it covers in its work.

## United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

[Original: English]

[25 May 2023]

Through its individual programmes and projects, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute is committed to preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Below are some of the key results from the wide range of action-oriented research and needs-based initiatives implemented by the Institute in 2022. With the support and cooperation of partner countries and international organizations, the Institute plans to continue contributing to global efforts to reduce the risk posed by weapons of mass destruction.

### European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative

The Institute is an implementing partner of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, which is funded by the European Union and supports 64 partner countries in eight regions. The eight regional secretariats play a direct role in capacity-building by facilitating regional projects that are establishing more robust and sustainable communities and practices with regard to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation.

In 2022, the Initiative helped to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction by:

- Creating strong legislation in partner countries to serve as a deterrent to terrorists. For example, Tajikistan adopted its Law on Biosafety and Biosecurity based on the recommendations of the project on strengthening the national legal framework and the provision of specialized training on biosafety and biosecurity in countries in Central Asia and South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.
- Establishing the first chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives master's programme in Africa. During the first round of the programme, 25 trainees from eight partner countries participated. The second round was set to conclude by mid-2023.
- Publishing *A Prosecutor's Guide to Chemical and Biological Crimes*, with a view to providing prosecutors and relevant investigative agencies with guidance to support the successful prosecution for incidents involving the deliberate acquisition, production, transfer or use of chemical or biological agents. *A Prosecutor's Guide to Radiological and Nuclear Crimes* is scheduled to be published by the end of 2023.

### Contact project

Through the Contact project, the Institute has been supporting countries from the Middle East, the Black Sea and South-East Asia to improve the capabilities of State security and law enforcement officials to devise, plan and carry out intelligence operations to thwart radiological and nuclear trafficking attempts. In 2022, the Institute successfully held the final event of the Middle East Contact project, entitled "Regional radiological and nuclear detection and response table-top exercise", with the participation of the State authorities in charge of countering radiological and nuclear trafficking in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

### **Atlas project**

The Atlas project is aimed at preventing non-State actors from planning and carrying out chemical weapons attacks by developing and implementing training programmes in Morocco and Tunisia with a focus on intelligence-led operations and investigations. The Institute has already carried out missions to both partner countries to identify their needs and is planning to implement train-the-trainer courses in the final quarter of 2023.

### **Strengthening capacities to identify and mitigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear proliferation financing risks in South-East Asia**

Through the project on strengthening capacities to identify and mitigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear proliferation financing risks in South-East Asia, the Institute intends to improve understanding of such risks and to enhance awareness of and compliance with international standards and sanctions. To date, the Institute has held awareness-raising workshops in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines as part of the project.

### **Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear disinformation**

In the last three years, the Institute has been monitoring the malicious use of social media and analysing existing technology options to detect and debunk false information. In response to a request for assistance by Member States, the Institute began a process to provide capacity-building for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear stakeholders and developed training materials, including the *Handbook to Combat CBRN Disinformation*, which has been designed for individuals or agencies working in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation at various levels.

### **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

[Original: English]  
[2 June 2023]

### **Promoting adherence to and the effective implementation of international legal instruments**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) promotes adherence to and the effective implementation of international legal instruments to prevent and suppress terrorist acts carried out with weapons of mass destruction, among other activities. In accordance with its mandate, conferred by the General Assembly most recently in its resolution [74/175](#), the Office operates primarily through three workstreams: promoting the universalization and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, funded by the European Union and jointly implemented with the Office of Counter-Terrorism; supporting the universalization of international legal frameworks on nuclear security, including said Convention, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, funded by Canada; and building a repository of national legislation for implementing the criminalization provisions of the two Conventions and the Amendment, also funded by Canada.

Technical assistance activities related to the above included table-top exercises on the implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism; national, regional and international workshops on its universalization for officials from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the

Pacific; legislative assistance via desk reviews of national legislation; and legislative drafting workshops.

In June 2022, UNODC launched a new eLearning module on the Convention, which included its manual on fictional cases related to offences under the Convention and its training module on the international legal framework against chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism. Materials were translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and made available on the UNODC website dedicated to the Convention, which is regularly updated.

For the Convention's fifteenth anniversary, UNODC organized a high-level, multi-stakeholder event in December 2022, co-hosted by Canada and the European Union. Member States, United Nations entities and civil society gathered to take stock of the status of adherence to the Convention, showcase national experiences and the Office's achievements to date, and chart future efforts to promote the Convention and strengthen the global nuclear security architecture.

### **Countering the proliferation financing of weapons of mass destruction**

In December 2022, through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC published the following eLearning modules:

- “Basics of countering the financing of weapons of mass destruction”, on proliferation financing networks and the role of national measures in countering proliferation financing;
- “Basics of the international framework to address countering proliferation financing”, which explores the key roles of the Security Council and the Financial Action Task Force in countering proliferation financing;
- “Efforts to counter proliferation financing”, identifying which measures Governments and private sector entities should take to enhance their counterproliferation financing frameworks;
- “Introduction to financial disruption – targeting proliferation financing”, with a practical framework for financial disruption strategies.

UNODC continued to provide capacity-building training on countering weapons of mass destruction proliferation financing by:

- Participating as a panellist in an online conference organized by King's College London to consult on the *Guidance on Proliferation Financing Risk Assessment and Mitigation* of the Financial Action Task Force, prior to its publication in June 2021.
- Holding a three-day webinar on countering proliferation financing for a private sector audience in Indonesia and an additional webinar for financial regulators, reporting entities and other related institutions.
- Participating in a regional workshop on proliferation financing risk assessment in West Africa, organized by the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money-Laundering in West Africa.
- Offering four inter-agency training courses on the prevention, detection, investigation and disruption of proliferation financing activities, delivered in 2022 in Eastern and Southern Africa.

UNODC provided normative assistance to the Government of Uganda to update the country's Anti-Terrorism Act to criminalize proliferation financing. The new law was passed in September 2022.