Forum: General Assembly 1

Issue: Implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Student Officer: Sanaa Mehta

Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

One of the largest issues facing the world today is terrorism. One in every two thousand deaths is due to a terrorist attack. Terrorism is increasing day by day, more specifically, cyberterrorism has exponentially risen and surfaced as an increase by 38% has been detected against state and non-state actors ranging from High Tech, Aerospace, Defense, Government and International Organisations, according to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. It is important to note that at the fundamental level of the Counter-Terrorism proposals and Plans of Action, the United Nations (UN) condemns any act of terrorism, regardless of its purpose as it disrupts international security and peace.

Furthermore, education, poverty, leading to a lack of representation is a root cause in subverting polity through violent means. A common misunderstanding is that religions endorse such violence; in fact gross financial, social and political imbalances, which are often signs of poverty, within and amongst nations remain a cause of terrorism. Moreover, with a lack of education and poverty comes vulnerability and overexposure to terrorist recruitment. Being LEDCs and politically vulnerable nations/in the transition of regimes, according to the Global Terrorism Index, 72% of all deaths from terrorist attacks took place in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria. This establishes a correlation between poverty/vulnerability and terrorism.

Endorsing and implementing UN strategies is vital to counter-terrorism. From a human rights point of view, every member state has an equal incentive to promote this issue. From an economic point of view, deteriorating trade flow is an area of concern and economic allies and enemies are vital to explore. Terrorism may not be a direct concern to all MEDCs or countries in general, however, in the interconnected world, some nations are hubs and hotspots, some are
targets and victims and some are simply strung along due to other factors including but not limited to: exports and imports, geographics, historical connections and so on. Therefore, it is in all member-states’ interests to discuss and promote the four pillars of counter-terrorism.

**Definition of Key Terms**

**Terrorism**

Inspired by Resolution 1566 (2004), terrorism is any violence or provocation of terror where the intent is to attack a group of people under political, social, economic, religious or other pressures.

**Rule of Law**

Government officials cannot enforce unjust laws yet the public must abide by laws as no individual is above the law. Terrorism can be diminished with cooperation from citizens and members states as they would respectively respect the Rule of Law.

**Violent Extremism**

Violent extremism can be a form of terrorism where training and intentional violence against ordinary citizens. Radical groups and organisations, with some form of political or social motives, execute such acts. Training and recruitment are aspects of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) that need to be addressed.

**State-Sponsored Terrorism**

When the government of a country is directly or indirectly tied to terrorist groups and consequently terrorism; this can be in financial forms or by providing resources or indirectly through political legislation (not applying penalties/consequences to terrorists), turning a blind eye to the action instead of condemning it.
Non-negotiation

This is a policy where countries do not participate parley or discuss with terrorists intended to disincentivize terrorists from hurting civilians as the government will most definitely not participate in giving them anything in return. USA and Japan, who are known to have hostage situations in which ransoms and such negotiations where not tolerated, are two countries out of the many who have adopted this policy.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

WMDs take nuclear, chemical, biological or forms often launched to destroy a gross number of lives. Terrorist organisations may illegally or unjustly obtain these weapons and intend to use that for such destruction. Countries must take measures on preventing the spread of WMDs to non-state actors in the system of international affairs.

Border Security

Laws and security in place to moderate and regulate individuals entering and leaving a nation. Emphasized for all member states; collaborating with neighboring countries to ensure an efficient system and just laws.

Background Information

Terrorism is one of the most grave dangers facing our world with groups of people targeting regimes or other groups with political, social religious, economic motives, with 18,814 deaths in 2017 (Global Terrorism Index). This high amount of deaths are primarily civilians caught as collateral damage or as a target for simply believing in something or for supporting something; unprovoked and physically one-sided. The ideology that no one is born a terrorist is supported by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Gutteres as he states: “No one is born a terrorist. We must tackle the underlying conditions that cause some people to be lured into terrorism.”
Root causes of terrorism

Some of the root factors that contribute to the growth of radical ideas include human rights abuses, the lack of the rule of law in society, socio-economic marginalization and extreme poverty and discrimination. Terrorism comes in many forms, including cyber and militaristic (and can also be a mixture). Radicalism is the concept of changing social structures and in terrorism, this happens where norms of decorum, co-existence and non-violence are violated due to extreme views and beliefs. The two most prominent beliefs are that terrorism roots from poverty and terrorism roots from strict societal structure/ limited political liberties. Alberto Abadie, a Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) suggests that when political freedoms are intermediate or low, there is either a vulnerability in the government, where groups can express this without fear of repercussions or they are extremely suppressed and want to express their frustration (whether it is religious, representational, financial).

Propaganda

Promoting propaganda, spreading fear, opposing a governing body or group are all common forms of terrorism in the last decade. Stanford University conducted a case study conducted: Pakistan’s nuclear program has developed, however, propagandists portrayed this development as a threat, villainizing the country; different techniques (such as social proofs where similarities and connections are made, and indirectly one is prone to associate the situation with a similar one). A country (Pakistan) is depicted as an ally of their existing enemy (Iran) in a Washington Post article as one of the first quotes is Iran’s Foreign Minister congratulating Pakistan’s development on behalf of the proud Muslims worldwide. Connecting this to propaganda in terrorism, while it may be correct factually, it is presented in an organisation and way in which readers are fearful or act on assumptions.

One of the UN’s goals is to eradicate any belief/ideology that religion is associated with terrorism; such presentation of international news can bring a whole community or even country to be fearful of something/someone that has been portrayed in an unnecessarily prejudiced light.
It is important to remember that the issue here is the use of propaganda and the case study is an example of how subtly humans can believe or be biased—terrorists do the same thing—using propaganda for things such as recruitment; some vulnerable members of society see this as an opportunity, the same way as some Americans saw the Washington Post Article and assumed Pakistan and Iran are both potential enemies now.

Task force on the global counterterrorism strategy

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres established the main goals and approaches in 2006, including further using the UN as a transnational intergovernmental organization to regulate decorum in society, having preventive measures in place and ensuring that all resources towards terrorists are cut off, and hopes to continue in the future. Strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation is a main priority considering this is a transnational issue with around 163 countries having experienced it. The task force created by the UN is a part of the strategy which is reviewed every 2 years (the most recent being June 2018). The 9/11 attack is the most modern event that has caught the international community’s attention to the issue of terrorism along with the concept of cyberterrorism as more civilians are directly exposed to the risks of radical action.

Terrorism Variation

Something that should be considered is the different types and intensities of terrorism that exist in and for different countries. While many countries would be safe with simple intensified border security legislation and laws, other countries require internet mediation, UN representatives on-site of hotspots etc. Moreover, countries with a higher fiscal budget for military and security can afford a stronger team dedicated simply to countering terrorism connecting directly with the UN, however, other countries cannot yet allocate such amounts to this issue as they are fighting poverty, and other issues of sustainability.

The United Nations goals and established agenda

Anti State-Sponsored Terrorism

The United Nations hopes to condemn state sponsors in any way or form of terrorism (financial, militaristic). This form of terrorism aims to topple the governance of a
sovereign nation, whilst other countries use the ensuing chaos to take resources from that nation. Ana Silvia Rodriguez Abascal, permanent representative to the UN from Cuba, said her country has been a victim of state-sponsored terrorism, and the solution for the UN here was to introduce agreements, international cooperations and treaties ensuring the combatting of terrorism; mediators, UN representatives mediating on political transparency. The UN wishes to avoid states invading others’ sovereignty a hopes to be the primary source of mediation.

**UN Priorities**

There are hopes to renew and sustain focus on preventing terrorism, maintain respect for human rights (keeping that as a priority). Moreover, investing heavily in the youth through education and employment opportunities is a priority: Criminal Justice Degree Schools captures universities and colleges in the United States that have courses in counterterrorism embedded into major and minor degrees. Implementing this knowledge into the youth has also been a controversial solution in the past as the United Kingdom implemented a strategy where the program surveilled the Muslim minority youth which was counterproductive as it exacerbated segregation in society and there has been an exhaustive list of alternative solutions that do not marginalize including Paul Thomas’s approaches on youth, terrorism and education (University of Huddersfield, UK).

**Current obstacles and successes**

Lastly, strengthening the UN’s role in implementing the Global counterterrorism strategy, would unify all member states and decrease the threat of terrorism and the existence of large terrorist entities threatening innocent civilians and fruitful governments. While the UN has solidified plans of action and resolutions, member states are yet to implement and fully endorse them for reasons including the population’s reaction to the legislation, internal political conversation, the ongoing investigations of local terrorists, implementing it in such a way that it is effective to the nation’s needs. For example, if technology and cyberterrorism is not a huge issue but border security is, then prioritizing that. This essentially personalizes the UN’s plan. Moreover, incentivizing neighbouring nations, allies and generally the international community can be tasking, and vary based on their relationship; economic stability (measured as GDP per capita), population size, MEDCs
to LEDCs, regime types and other such factors must be kept in mind when communication takes place.

The economic stability, for example, matters as an MEDC is more likely able to maximize their awareness campaigns on this issue and reach urban and rural sectors of society. MEDCs also statistically have a more efficient and developed communication system and social contract with their civilians, thus, making it easier to avoid terrorist acts in the country or from the country. Moreover, MEDCs, in the past, may not have been able to avoid terrorist attacks (EU nations and the USA have been victims often), however, they have the economic means to implement stark changes in their security systems, unlike LEDCs. In the past countries have falsely accused sovereign nations of such violations and in other cases countries have falsely denied having affiliation with terrorist groups; as mentioned in the propaganda section, there are assumptions, pre-existing notions, as well as the government, ’s not being state-sponsored terrorists, but terrorists residing in and exploiting vulnerable regimes. Most western nations have a non-negotiation and mediation policy with terrorists and past policies and beliefs must be upheld or changed with concrete reason.

**The strategy**

In summary, the UN’s strategy consists of five points according to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. More leadership is required in this field, the four pillars have to be implemented in a synchronized manner globally, and the prioritization of countering violent extremism is understood by all member states, stressing the importance of the United Nations in this context. There are benefits and detriments of this strategy: the violation of state sovereignty based on assumptions, frustration and fear are common. Moreover, human rights may be argued as a priority, but in times of conflict, harming civilians and their lifestyles has not been avoided in the past. On the other hand, the UN has a more active role and with more cooperating nations over the world, the terrorism rate has declined by around 23% over the past 3 years, according to Forbes.

The United Nations has recognized this issue and established four overarching pillars to counter the issue:
These are the four pillars for the global counter-terrorism strategy adopted in 2006.

Cyberterrorism

Information and Communications Technology is being misused by state and non-state actors such as hacking for political gain or targeting a group or individual through an easily accessible source, social media. United Nations Security Council, United Nations Economic and Social Council, and 3 of the General Assembly bodies have discussed its impacts on a social and political scale; civilians are affected mentally, emotionally, they can be economically exploited, it can lead to physical harassment and this vulnerability is adjacent to technology advancements. Keeping on firewalls, offering technical assistance and education have been done in the past as solutions. The counterterrorism strategy being discussed is directly applicable to countering cyberterrorism; the threat of information and access to a state, non-state actor, individual or group’s information is not only a violation of several human right’s resolutions but a security hazard. Lastly, social media is a favourite for exploitation: 600,000 facebook accounts are compromised every day according to a Denmark-based counter cyber-terrorism Center for Strategic and International Studies group.

Countering Violent Extremism

Countering violent extremism (CVE) programs can initiate counter-speech interventions and networks with anti-recruitment and training sessions along with guest government representatives/speakers attending. Partnering the government with Grassroots organizations and immersing themselves into civil society would be beneficial for coexistence within a country and amongst countries. The approach to addressing the public does have areas of concern consisting of the feasibility which changes depending on a country’s demographics and
population. Moreover, political and economic effects, including instability and deteriorating trade flow remain more complex and less violent approaches that cannot be resolved by CVE programmes and require more specific and developed programmes targeting a smaller segment of society. Additionally, keeping the information and training given to the public consistent has two flaws: primarily, different countries are at different stages of development (LEDGs may need more awareness regarding weaponry and recruitment whereas MEDCs may require anti-cyber terrorist tactics). Despite these potential hindrances, the public is the main-stakeholder that must be addressed as counter-terrorism cannot be a surface-level approach, it must be at the roots.

**Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

**The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)**

![Map of ISIS territories in Syria and Iraq](image)
The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are one of the most prominent terrorist groups in the world today. As a significant stakeholder in the Syrian Civil Crisis, ISIS controls territory (see figure above), has a mass group of followers and have the overarching goal to create an Islamic caliphate. Social media is used to promote radical ideas. In 2015, according to CNN, 3,500 people were held as slaves by ISIS and the UN has confirmed this statistic. Women, children and innocent civilians have been recruited globally by this group to perform acts including suicide bombing (which is known globally as a form of violent extremism). As mentioned above, the UN wishes to counter the root financial sources for terrorist groups; for ISIS, oil production, ransoms along with selling stolen artefacts for inflated prices are the root sources and it is known that oil and financial power are correlated. They symbolize the global fear of terrorism as they have been the most active on the mass media and social media compared to any other terrorist group— their impact is substantial in terms of not just government fear, but on the culture and freedoms of citizens and the youth.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the largest intergovernmental organisation with a security-focused agenda, and they work alongside the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with their framework for the fight against terrorism. With a multidimensional approach, the OSCE wants to endorse CVE and abolishing radical movements that result in terrorist attacks/threats. Human rights are also a priority for the OSCE especially countering terrorism and adjacently, the drastic measures. The OSCE can continue to help by endorsing border monitoring and domestic and international transportation security. Moreover, by creating legally binding documents holding all 57 European nations accountable for their actions, assuring safety and security on the same level for all member nations is a possible solution. In the past, the OSCE has implemented training workshops and committees involving all ages and genders to participate; a beneficial solution could also be the implementation of a draft issue brief and form that can be filled out by a member state for a more personalised response to the respective issue rather than a general, binding policy that restricts (this is due to the variety and uniqueness of each case and each country’s stance (economically, politically, socially, demographically)). Their fiscal OSCE budget has increased...
from 12 million euros to 137.8 million euros in 2018 indicating support and credibility over the years (this is alongside their 25 ministerial council meetings.

The United States of America (USA)

The United States of America (USA), is one of the P5 nations eager to counterterrorism, stated through the Obama Administration that a key solution is a collaboration to cut off terrorists from their sources of danger and physical threat. Trump has an executive order on finding terrorists and has added clauses to George Bush’s work from after the tragic terrorist attack of 9/11. The State and Treasury Department has direct permission to target leaders of terrorist organisations and their affiliates; the country has loosened their policy on the reasoning behind targeting terrorists: according to India today, there no longer has to be a concrete act of which a terrorist group violated, terrorists, are condemned any which way. This order has been successful to the extent that the Treasury was able to condemn more than 24 individuals/entities from around a dozen terrorist groups. The United States has also been involved in the Syrian crisis with troops on land in an attempt to aid for five years. Helping Kurds fight the opposing powers (Assad, Russian aid, and Iran influence along with ISIS), the US played a prominent role, however, Trump ended this by bringing the troops back. Perspectives are vital, many argue the United States are subject to betrayal and can be to blame for ISIS’s next actions, others believe the call was right and their duty abroad had come to an end. The United States, beneficial and detrimental, has been discussed a nation that often is needed for humanitarian aid but ends up working to the extent that military aid and political (or anti-regime) aid subsequently takes place.

Syrian Arab Republic

Syria is one of the countries with the most violent extremism, political tensions and civil disobedience with Bashar Al-Assad’s regime, ISIS, jihadist, rebels, western powers and more being stakeholders in the issue. Concerning terrorism, Syria has not only been a growing hotspot for terrorist activity but, with over 5 million civilians having fled the country, 6 million displaced within the nation and around double in need of aid. It is an example to the international community of a refugee crisis and terrorist crisis intended to be avoided through ensuring no exploitation in times of political transition or uprisings. Due to Syria's crisis,
countries, specifically South-East Asian Countries, have become more wary of public opinion; India, for example, had elections in which the public opinion was so vital that the government-subsidized farming for the farmers; showing respect and importance to the people is a takeaway to avoid exploitation. In conclusion for Syria, a totalitarian Islamic caliphate is what ISIS wants and Syria let their desires begin to be quenched by their vulnerability and political instability (Assad regime and the political uprising).

Neighboring Countries
The neighboring countries are vulnerable to Syria’s instability and have experienced physical dangers (airstrikes), immense refugee crisis (Turkey being one of the countries with the largest amount of refugees– World Bank says around 2,225,147), political tension, social uprisings/unrest and the people are vulnerable to . Syria’s political system is fragmented leaving its borders vulnerable as well; these areas of security are not robust enough without the participation of this country leaving neighbors open to terrorist attacks including ISIS’ involvement in the Syrian Crisis. Iraq, having local history with ISIS’ events was involved in the civil war for a brief period; neighboring countries have been involuntary bases for foreign troops wanting to intervene in the Syrian Crisis– the lifestyles of the neighboring countries are disrupted, sometimes for humanitarian benefit and sometimes simply because of the political upheaval and terrorist dangers.

Timeline of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2005</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia hosted the 1st International Counter-Terrorism Conference. The outcome was establishing an international centre to combat terrorism. This was a momentous occasion as member states formally recognised the issue as a destructive pattern and method of expression rather than erratic radical attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8th, 2006</td>
<td>The UNGA established the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy The Plan of Action focuses on preventative measures, combative measures, strengthening the UN’s role all whilst respecting human rights and the rule of law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The UNCCT was established to endorse the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The task force and the Department of Political Affairs essentially collaborated to implement this.

Saudi Arabia, UK, US and Germany were few of the nations that donated to the UNCCT.

The General Assembly’s resolution on the Plan of Action to Counter Violent Extremism was finalised. CVE is one of the main issues that correlate with widespread terrorism and abolishing its physical/logistical possibilities (along with its sources) would decrease terrorism rates.

The Task Force was replaced by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant UN Treaties and Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism (1937)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nuclear Terrorism Convention (September 14th 2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex Plan of Action: A/RES/60/288 (September 8th 2006)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the past, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has played a role in working with civilians on intra-faith and inter-faith awareness (dialogue) to establish a more secular and religiously diverse yet accepting society. Yes,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
diversity is acknowledged by the UN, however, an area of drastic improvement is coexistence and this lack thereof is a common cause of terrorism.

Establishing a stricter and more thorough process (depending on the country’s already existing policies) for granting asylum. Immigration laws and border security are the overarching policies here; in the past, certain countries have been discriminatory against specific religions and races, however, the HRC condemns such acts. This political and social instability is a cause of mass emigration due to the desire of civilians to leave countries with suppression, discrimination and more; the largest refugee crisis’ in the world are born with such factors (ie. political uprisings).

**UN Plan of Action**

Some solutions, according to the UN Plan of Action, include being aware of and assessing the extent of drug trafficking, weapon trading, money laundering and illegal smuggling/transportation of nuclear materials. Previous attempts to do so fall under the strategy, however, further implementing and endorsing them in all aspects (economic, social, political, militaristic and even virtually in social media and the mass media) is vital and requires the transnational issue to be dealt with by all parties. Solutions that have been beneficial and successful include stricter border policies that several countries, including the USA, have implemented since 9/11 and respective terrorist attacks.

**Border policies and diplomatic relations**

One of the most debated types of policies discussed this decade has been that of border security, policies, immigration laws integrated with nationalism versus internationalism. Firstly the immigration crisis and separation of already immigrated families is a concern; secondly, the implementation of tighter border security can escalate to the abolishment of prized co-existence and acceptance of diverse groups migrating across the world; moreover, border security can often be perceived to citizens as a stigma against a culture, socio-economic situation, group or race and this would deteriorate diplomatic relations. Moreover, the economic effects include closing ports of entry; for LEDCs depending on neighboring MEDCs or countries with large imports from neighbors could be affected by a determinant of time. Over all, the attitude and connotation that comes with border policies is not internationally accepted as a peace and
security method and rather as a anti-cultural, anti-nation method, which the UN hopes to change.

Resource Channeling and Terrorist Access

Channelling the development of biotechnology for merit goods and purposes rather than terrorist groups and organisation and having a system in place to assure that this is followed through is an important solution. It may seem obvious, not providing terrorists with fatal and disastrous weapons and resources, but countries have been struggling in the past and present with how that is going to be assured and understanding what resources terrorists even want. Weak governments and weak security means that arms sold to such nations are at risk of being hijacked by terrorist organisations. While this struggle has been continuous for many countries, success has been partnering private and public sectors of society to collaborate on this issue; organisations with aid towards victims and their families along with private enterprises working with officials on infrastructural loopholes. Lastly, the use of social media has been a problem, as mentioned in the cyberterrorism section, but it has also been extremely beneficial in spreading awareness: millions of tweets, Instagram reposts take place regarding terrorist attacks globally. While some of our youth are vulnerable to recruitment and propaganda due to a lack of education and social-economic stability, many are incentivized to stand against terrorism due to the benefits of the education systems and social media’s informative nature: social media has both pros and cons.

UN Condemnations

State sponsors of terrorism are condemned and the UN wishes to address all member nations as strong opposers of terrorism. Terrorism financing: freezing the assets of terrorists; national financial terrorism units must be used to assure that terrorists cannot gain access to powerful resources. The issue here is self-explanatory: the role of a government is to support a country’s citizens and maintain foreign affairs, which is a powerful role– if terrorists gain access to their powerful resources within humanitarian plans and intentions, the world will be and has been in grave danger.

In the past, successful criminal enterprises and private donors are some of the reasons why terrorists have such powerful resources and member states have begun prioritising the
search of these pathways. Firstly transactions made using cryptocurrency and bitcoin (which
has grown popular in the last decade) are written under a false name; criminals get their funding
from trafficked goods, selling illegal assets. Lastly, wealthy donors who are looking to
destabilize and intervene to profit off of potentially needful or chaotic terrorist organisations are
a part of the reason why terrorists have such resources. This is because, with guaranteed
financial stability, large terrorist organisations essentially have access to whatever they please;
criminal enterprises can gather funds specifically for these groups. While concrete militaristic
offensive measures and terrorist hotspots/safehouses have been a part of many international
counter-terrorism research plans, the root causes have recently come into play as an indirect
preventative measure. Authorities, especially in western countries and MEDCs (the USA, the
EU countries, Japan, Israel, India), have laws in place for specific acts of support of terrorism
(such as soliciting funds for terrorist groups) and urge all countries to perform investigations and
make such regulations. Foreign bank monitoring is a common tactic but has been disputed over
as a violation of capitalist ideals as capitalism is the ideology that, laissez-faire—no government
should not be monitoring any private enterprises for socio-economic prosperity.

**Possible Solutions**

**Preventing recruitment and radicalization**

There have been several efforts to counterterrorism such as eliminating terrorists and
physical and security measures to maintain security and prevent attacks. However, preventing
recruitment and radicalization through education plans and disconnecting terrorist organisations
from financial and logistical forms of aid and support is to be followed through. The Weapons of
Mass Destruction that are being sourced at one of the key areas that must be blocked to
diminish the threat of terrorists as many would argue the safety of civilians is a priority. Whether
one would call terrorism an act of war or simply violent extremism, people’s lives are at risk; at
least 5 countries had over 1000 deaths from terrorism in the year 2017. While the global
terrorism index (GTI) has improved over the past three years, it remains three times more fatal
than it was in 2001. One of the biggest areas of improvement is emphasizing that not just public
sectors, but private sectors and foreign partners must be on board with the same
counterterrorism strategies for an efficient process.
Complications with preventing radicalisation

Preventing recruitment is an ideal solution, however, complications and problems in implementing this solution are drastic and complex as well. With low employment rates and a lack of job opportunities, this often a go-to for young members of society, without knowing about the upcoming exploitation. Another complication is the way in which terrorist organisations present themselves; they depict themselves as substitute communities for outcasts or those who don’t find belonging in their existing communities. Psychologically, young people want to feel belonged, acknowledged and contributive, and terrorists pose their ‘groups’ as an opportunity for the youth to express themselves. Propaganda is a recurring theme among terrorists. Family is another key factor that complicates recruitment in two ways; either it is a pressurizing factor (indirectly or directly) on members of society to gain money, respect and connections with more powerful people, or family is an incentive for the youth to be employed (and with terrorist propaganda and the yellow-journalism in their promises and achievements, vulnerability is maximized and recruitment is common). Lastly, young women are the most marginalised in society but have thus far not been considered much in studies, investigations and counter violence programs; supporting roles, roles as suicide bombers and even equal roles to that of men, women have been a underacknowledged part of the increase in terrorism.

Re-defining Terrorism

Moreover, the ideology that it is one specific race, religion or ethnicity that is involved in terrorism must be abolished to solve the problem at hand. The UN definition of terrorism does not, in any way or form, target a specific group. The range of terrorist groups consists of white supremacists, jihadist networks as well as diverse and unidentified radical groups; thus, these generalisations are unjust and detrimental. Countries that have a high terrorism rate should make eradicating and searching for terrorist hotspots and safe houses in their respective nations a national security priority. Countries with access to resources which help them eradicate terrorist leaders and groups through military means should do so without harming civilians. The United States participated in operation with the agenda to kill Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi and did exactly that in Syria. In the past, having assets sent into terrorist organisations have been successful and unsuccessful, thus, delving deeper into the networks, purpose and method in which such operations can be carried is important.
Humanitarian Approaches

Focusing on the human rights factors that are increasing the amount of terrorism in the world such as human rights abuses, the lack of the rule of law in society, immense poverty and unemployment, minimal education opportunities and even political discrimination. Human rights abuses can be solved through a variety of controversial yet potentially suitable solutions such as the equitable salary concept, raising minimum wages, microfinancing (and the other UN methods for the first Sustainable Development Goal). The lack of the rule of law can be reversed by firstly educating those in the country about the major laws and the ideology that nothing is above the law; dire consequences exist for breaking the law; the enlightenment thinker, John Locke, promoted the idea of a social contract between citizens and the government where certain sacrifices and agreements must be made in order for the government to protect welfare, security, and basic needs– the rule of law must reflect both ends of this contract applying to all sectors of society. It is important to note that it is difficult for countries to implement this and factors that cause this lack of the rule of law include weak governance, transitional governments, preserving the sovereignty of nations and an extremely diverse population that has multifaceted approaches on legislation.

Urging all member nations to be completely authentic with their recognition of terrorist groups and attacks and reporting it to the UNGA and Security Council so it can be added to the official list of groups.

Guiding Questions

1. What is your country’s history with terrorism and how do those experiences shape their alignment with the pillars of the task force?
2. Are there measures in place regarding counter-terrorism in education facilities?
3. Evaluate the security policies on the WMDs and access to them
4. How can your country stop providing involuntary financial and/or militaristic benefits to terrorists?
Bibliography


Does Poverty Cause Terrorism?, www.nber.org/digest/may05/w10859.html.


Media’s Use of Propaganda to Persuade People's Attitude, Beliefs and Behaviors, web.stanford.edu/class/e297c/war_peace/media/hpropaganda.html.


“10 Alarming Cyber Security Facts That Threaten Your Data [Updated].” *Heimdal Security Blog*, 8 May 2019,

Appendix or Appendices

I. www.youtube.com/watch?v=15ltQoYAaJk. (Secretary General Speech)

A great source for delegates to gain direct insight into the thoughts of the Secretary General who outlines the UN’s over all policy and goals. I would further recommend this to students who want to learn more about the UN’s stance (detailed areas of concern, hope and priority to the UN).


This source simply outlines the UN’s existing strategy; this should be the basis of any delegates resolution/argument– existing measures.


This is the resolution adopted by the United Nations where delegates can read exactly what the strategy covers and read the Plan of Action.

IV. www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzmO6RWy1v8. (Crash Course on ISIS)

A source for delegates wishing to learn more about one of the most significant terrorist groups today. It will also help one understand the root causes, other stakeholders and effects of these groups on a social, economic and political level (through a historical lens). Understanding your
country’s relationship and stance on specific terrorist groups and acknowledging their historical relationships is important (alliances, enemies, etc).