Committee: Disarmament and International Security
Topic: The Question of terrorist empowerment & recruitment
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Summary

Terrorism continues to pose a major threat to international peace and security and undermines the core values of the United Nations. In addition to the devastating human cost of terrorism, in terms of lives lost or permanently altered, terrorist acts aim to destabilize governments and undermine economic and social development.
Addressing this threat is difficult given the complex and constantly evolving nature of terrorist activity, for example its motivations, financing, methods of attack and choice of target are constantly changing. Terrorist acts often defy national borders; one act of terrorism can involve activities and actors from numerous countries.
Given this complexity, strong coordination and cooperation within national governments and between states and organizations at the regional and international level is essential to effectively combat terrorism, to share best practices and lessons learned and to assist with the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases.

Background Information

Terrorism was first coined in the 1790s to refer to the terror used during the French Revolution by the revolutionaries against their opponents. The Jacobin party of Maximilien Robespierre carried out a Reign of Terror involving mass executions by the guillotine. Although terrorism in this usage implies an act of violence by a state against its domestic enemies, since the 20th century the term has been applied most frequently to violence aimed, either directly or indirectly, at governments in an effort to influence policy or topple an existing regime. In order to attract and maintain the publicity necessary to generate widespread fear, terrorists must engage in increasingly dramatic, violent, and high-profile attacks. These have included hijackings, hostage takings, kidnappings, mass shootings, car bombings, and, frequently, suicide bombings. The hope of the terrorist is that the sense of terror these acts engender will induce the population to pressure political leaders toward a specific political end.
Recruiting members and supporters is crucial to a terrorist organisation's survival. Each terrorist organisation has different recruitment techniques, depending on whether it is a large or small organisation, or a dispersed network of individuals. The most common methods of recruitment used by terrorist organisations and terrorist cells and their costs are:
* Personal needs of the recruiter and the maintenance of basic infrastructure for the recruitment / facilitation network
* Production and dissemination of recruitment materials
* Payment for goods and services to facilitate the new recruits' early participation in the terrorist organiation
* Financial incentives provided directly to recruits or for the hiring of mercenaries or civil experts

In Europe, terrorism peaked, in 2015-2017, with there being multiple bombings, such as the « Brussel Bombings » and the « Manchester Arena Bombing ». Currently, the country with the most terrorist attacks per year is Afghanistan.

Definition of Key Terms

1. Terrorist - a person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.
2. Terrorism - the calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective.
3. Empowerment - authority or power given to someone to do something.
4. Recruitment - the action of enlisting new people in the armed forces.
5. Money laundering - the concealment of the origins of illegally obtained money, typically by means of transfers involving foreign banks or legitimate businesses.
6. ISIS - Islamic State, at times known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or by its Arabic acronym, *Daesh*, is a militant Sunni Islamist group and former unrecognized quasi-state that follows a Salafi jihadist doctrine.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

1. **The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**
2. **The anti-IS alliance -** Consisting of 64 partners (including the EU), the anti-IS alliance coordinates international efforts to combat the terrorist organisation IS/Daesh. The alliance takes a comprehensive approach comprising five lines of action - Military actions; Disrupting IS's financial flows; Disrupting the recruitment of foreign fighters; A communication strategy; Stabilising liberated territories.
3. **The Global Counterterrorism Forum -** Within the framework of the GCTF, the German Government is working to develop and share best practices, as well as to assist and coordinate steps to enhance civilian capacities as part of international anti-terrorism efforts.
4. **The Financial Action Task Force -** The FATF sets authoritative standards for combating terrorist financing around the world. The mandate for its work are the United Nations Security Council's resolutions, which call on the member states to halt terrorist financing.
5. **OSCE** - The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) plays an important role in strengthening the capabilities of its 57 participating States (including Russia and Spain) to respond to terrorist threats while at the same time complying with the rule of law and human rights.
6. **The Council of Europe -** Alongside the prevention of acts of terror, the Council of Europe focuses on ensuring that anti-terrorism measures go hand in hand with the protection of human rights. The multi-disciplinary Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) was also set up for this purpose. In May 2015, an additional protocol on foreign terrorist fighters and on the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation was adopted.
7. *NATO* - NATO is continuing to expand its range of capabilities for defence against terrorist threats. Training measures for allies and partners play an important role along with reconnaissance, the exchange of information and projects for combating terrorism with innovative technologies, for example.
8. **All countries of the European Union**
9. **Afghanistan -** country with the highest number of terrorist attacks per year

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings
- 1999 Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism
- Sustainable development goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Possible Solutions

- Sanctions lists of the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committees of the United Nations Security Council against persons and organisations affiliated with these terrorist organisations and IS/Daesh
- Call on the member states to halt terrorist financing.
- Policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering
- Global cooperation to track money laundering to identify when a terrorist organisation is recruiting new members

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