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GA 1: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)

# Research Report

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Topic 1: Implementing measures to trace and prevent terrorism financing.



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## Introduction

Terrorism, especially on an international scale, requires constant funding and resources in order to maintain sustainability and to carry out acts of terrorism without hindrances. Financing of terrorism is acquired through several means, such as support from wealthy business groups or political groups, profits from businesses and other commercial activities. However, the sources of funding for terrorism can also be illegitimate, such as funding received through activities like drug, weapon, and human trafficking, contract based criminal activities and so on.<sup>1</sup>

## Definition of Key Terms

**Terrorism:** Terrorism is the unofficial or unauthorized use of violence and intimidation in the attempt to achieve political aims.<sup>2</sup> It aims to inculcate fear in citizens and governments to achieve monetary, religious, or political success and advantage.

**UDHR:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an internationally accepted document that was adopted by the UN, and stands for and protects the general rights, freedoms, and permissions of all human beings in the world.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Combating Terrorist Financing." *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/expertise/combating-terrorist-financing.html#:~:text=Terrorist%20groups%20need](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/expertise/combating-terrorist-financing.html#:~:text=Terrorist%20groups%20need). Accessed 7 Jan. 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Sydney, Albert, et al. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *United Nations*, 10 Dec. 1948, [www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights](http://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights).

**Funding:** Monetary support or gain provided to a group or association or organisation from various sources.

## Background Information

Terrorist financing refers to the act of providing, collecting, or receiving funds with the intention or knowledge that they will be used for acts of terrorism or causing harm. It also includes collecting or receiving funds with the intent or knowledge that they will benefit a terrorist group. Terrorist financing is the primary step for terrorist groups to accomplish their goals and move forward with their ideologies. Funding of terrorism is done in many ways, such as money laundering, extortion, kidnapping, business profits, cross-border illicit trades, mercenary business, assassinations, fraud, misuse of non-profit or for-profit organisations, smuggling, crowd funding, obtaining wealthy benefactors in forms of political groups, business groups or religious groups etc.

Terrorism is used by groups who are too weak to directly oppose powerful militaries, but still intend to make a change in the way society functions. The various means of gaining funding pose a trouble, because to eradicate terrorism, the funding must be disrupted, because they are essentially the root of the problem. This is what counter-terrorism organisations and groups aim to do in order to reduce the threat of terror.

Major terror attacks that have occurred, such as the 9/11 attack in the USA, the 2001 Parliament attack in India, and the more recent Hamas attack on Israel in 2023 makes it apparent that there is an increasing trend in terrorist activities. The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan adds to the panic, creating a situation where anti-terror movements might be a necessity.

## Major Countries and Organisations Involved

### UNOCT-UNCCT

The United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) are committed to helping all interested Member States increase their national and regional capacities to suppress the financing of terrorism. A UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted and is a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> "Countering the Financing of Terrorism | Office of Counter-Terrorism." *Www.un.org*, [www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/countering-the-financing-of-terrorism#:~:text=These%20include%2C%20among%20others%2C%20Resolution](http://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/countering-the-financing-of-terrorism#:~:text=These%20include%2C%20among%20others%2C%20Resolution). Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

## Security Council – CTC<sup>5</sup>

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

China, France, the Russian Federation, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and The United States of America are the 5 members of the Security Council with Veto powers. <sup>6</sup>The Counter-Terrorism Committee is a subdivision of the Security Council that functions towards the goal of eradicating terrorism.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee includes 15 member States, being

- Albania
- Brazil
- China
- Ecuador
- France
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Japan
- Malta
- Mozambique
- Russian Federation
- Switzerland
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States

## EU<sup>7</sup>

The European Union and its members have been active in anti-terrorism movements and in attempting to reduce the funding for terrorism. Several documents such as Counter-Terrorism Agenda

- Anti-money laundering directive

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<sup>5</sup> “Members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee | Security Council - Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).” *Www.un.org*,

[www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/members-ctc](http://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/members-ctc). Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

<sup>6</sup> “How Are the Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council Selected? - Ask DAG!” *Ask.un.org*, [ask.un.org/faq/14382](http://ask.un.org/faq/14382).

<sup>7</sup> European Council. “EU Fight against Terrorism - Consilium.” *Europa.eu*, European Council, 2017,

[www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/).

- Directive on combatting terrorism
- Directive to facilitate the use of financial and other information
- Regulation on illicit cash movements
- Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002
- Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/1693

Have been signed in order to achieve a terror free society, especially in Europe.

## Relevant UN Resolutions<sup>8</sup>

### **Resolution 2133 (2014) on kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorists<sup>9</sup>**

The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2133 in 2014, where States made a commitment to stop and prevent the funding of terrorist activities, including taking steps to prevent recruitment and cutting off the supply of weapons, prohibiting their citizens and anyone within their territories from providing financial resources to those involved in terrorist acts.

### **Resolution 2178 (2014) on suppressing the flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs)**

Resolution 2178 mandates that nations undertake specific measures to combat the threat posed by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). This includes preventing suspects, enhancing international cooperation on such issues, and improving legal frameworks in dealing with FTFs.

### **Resolution 2195 (2014) on preventing terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime**

Resolution 2195 emphasised the danger of funding in the increase of transnational terrorism, and addressed it by stressing the need to fight against corruption, money-laundering and illicit

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<sup>8</sup> “Countering the Financing of Terrorism | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *Www.un.org*, [www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/countering-the-financing-of-terrorism#:~:text=These%20include%2C%20among%20others%2C%20Resolution](http://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/countering-the-financing-of-terrorism#:~:text=These%20include%2C%20among%20others%2C%20Resolution.). Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

<sup>9</sup> “Security Council Adopts Resolution 2133 (2014), Calling upon States to Keep Ransom Payments, Political Concessions from Benefiting Terrorist | UN Press.” *Press.un.org*, [press.un.org/en/2014/sc11262.doc.htm#:~:text=Security%20Council%20Adopts%20Resolution%202133%20\(2014\)%2C%20Cailling%20upon%20States%20to%20Keep%20Ransom%20Payments%2C%20Political%20Concessions%20from%20Benefiting%20Terrorist](http://press.un.org/en/2014/sc11262.doc.htm#:~:text=Security%20Council%20Adopts%20Resolution%202133%20(2014)%2C%20Cailling%20upon%20States%20to%20Keep%20Ransom%20Payments%2C%20Political%20Concessions%20from%20Benefiting%20Terrorist.). Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

financial flows, in particular through the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

**Resolution 2199 (2015) aiming to prevent terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria from benefiting from trade in oil, antiquities and hostages, and from receiving donations.<sup>10</sup>**

The resolution was adopted in 2015, affirming that the direct and indirect trade in oil and refined oil products were a source of revenue for groups that funded terrorist activities. The resolution urged that countries ensure that their citizens and those in their regions do not make assets or economic resources available to terrorist groups or groups that fund terrorist groups via the flourishing oil trade.

**Resolution 2331 (2016) which aims to disrupt terrorist funding**

The aim of the resolution was to target funding derived from acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including when associated to trafficking in person by urging governments to further improve anti-sexual violence protocol.

**Resolution 2347 (2017) on preventing and countering illicit trade and trafficking**

Focused on illegal business activities in cultural property originating from a context of armed conflict, notably from terrorist groups, including by prohibiting cross-border trade in such illicit items. Aimed at curbing cross border trade that served as a financial pathway for terrorism.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

UNCCT has made significant contributions in Tunisia by facilitating the adoption and implementation of a decree that enables the identification of individuals and entities associated with terrorism. They have also played a crucial role in developing Counter-Financing of Terrorism Regional Operational Plans for the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), which have been successfully embraced by ESAAMLG jurisdictions. Through numerous capacity-building workshops, UNCCT has engaged thousands of officials and stakeholders from over 30 nations, providing valuable support in

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<sup>10</sup> “Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2199 (2015), Security Council Condemns Trade with Al-Qaida Associated Groups, Threatens

Further Targeted Sanctions | UN Press.” *Press.un.org*,

[press.un.org/en/2015/sc11775.doc.htm#:~:text=Unanimously%20Adopting%20Resolution%202199%20\(2015\)%2C%20Security%20Council%20Condemns%20Trade%20with%20Al%2DQaida%20Associated%20Groups%2C%20Threatens%20Further%20Targeted%20Sanctions](https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc11775.doc.htm#:~:text=Unanimously%20Adopting%20Resolution%202199%20(2015)%2C%20Security%20Council%20Condemns%20Trade%20with%20Al%2DQaida%20Associated%20Groups%2C%20Threatens%20Further%20Targeted%20Sanctions). Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

countering the financing of terrorism. This includes countries like Tajikistan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Sudan, and the 18 member jurisdictions of ESAAMLG.<sup>11</sup>

## Possible Solutions

Terrorism has grown to be a global issue, especially brought to light by famous incidents such as the September 11 attack of 2001. Which of course, has helped countries and their nationals to be aware of the threats national and international terrorism poses towards society. Awareness is a weapon against terrorism and terror funding because it provides a way for the common man to prevent indirectly aiding the terrorist activities that run based on the commodities they purchase. It is also a way for commercial groups to identify support to terrorism and find ways to curb terrorist activities.

Placing pressure on governments of countries with most relation to terrorist activities to strengthen their terrorism protocols, including their methods of identification and tracing of terrorist funding, and of the terrorist groups themselves, and the improvement of the legal framework that comes in place when FTFs are apprehended is a good way to ensure a safer society. Persuading governments to increase counter-terrorism project budgets can also be of great help in retaliating against amoral terrorism.

Increasing the power wielded by pre-existing counter-terrorism forces such as the UNCCT, the UNODC and the CFT Programme would directly influence the amount of work done against terrorism and terrorism funding, feeding back into the previous points as well; improvement in such organisations would increase awareness on terrorism and would also increase pressure on governments to take the issue seriously and take initiatives.

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<sup>11</sup> “Countering the Financing of Terrorism | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *Www.un.org*, [www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/countering-the-financing-of-terrorism#:~:text=These%20include%2C%20among%20others%2C%20Resolution](http://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/countering-the-financing-of-terrorism#:~:text=These%20include%2C%20among%20others%2C%20Resolution). Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

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