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UN Security Council

UNSC

**ADDRESSING THE THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
CAUSED BY TERRORIST ATTACKS**

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SAIMUN 2022

Letter from the Chair

Honorable delegates,

Greetings!

We are excited to welcome you to the Security Council Committee of this session of the annual Sub-Saharan Africa International Model United Nations conference, held here in Nairobi, Kenya. As always, this conference is catered to those interested in diplomacy, international relations, politics and human rights, economics among others, while allowing space for healthy and rigorous debate. Over the next four very exciting days we will do the exhilarating job of discussing the addressing the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. Please use this background guide to help you with your research for your position papers and so on.

Members of this dais are:

Jaina Bakhai

Diva Shah

Andreann Ndebu

This document will guide you on the basics of the United Nations Security Council Committee. We strongly recommend delegates to do more research on their member states. In case of any question, feel free to reach out to the SAIMUN Secretariat through the committee email listed below. We wish you all the best. May you have a fruitful debate as you work towards coming up with a resolution paper.

Kind Regards,

UNSC Dais

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INTRODUCTION TO THE UNSC

The Security Council, the United Nations' principal crisis-management body, is empowered to impose binding obligations on the 193 UN member states to maintain peace. The council's five permanent and ten elected members meet regularly to assess threats to international security, including civil wars, natural disasters, arms proliferation, and terrorism. The following topics are discussed in this committee:

- Terrorism
- Human rights
- Protection of civilians
- Women, Peace and security
- Youth, Peace and security
- Children and Armed Conflict.
- Health crises
- Justice, Rule of law and impunity

The Security Council has 15 members:

1. **Five permanent members** with veto power:
 - a. China
 - b. France
 - c. Russian Federation
 - d. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 - e. United States of America
2. **Ten non-permanent members**, five of which are elected each year by the General Assembly for a two-year term.

A key aspect of the United Nations Security Council which distinguishes it from the other organs of the United Nations is that it possesses a measure of binding power in its resolution. This is because the UNSC alone is capable of using military power to combat aggressors, through the United Nations Peacekeepers, as described in the United Nations Charter.

1) The UNSC is also capable of imposing sanctions against various nations, which it more frequently makes recourse to than direct military action.

2) It will be edifying for delegates to research past Security Council resolutions and actions beyond those mentioned in this background guide (for instance, UNSC resolutions on similar international crises) to better understand its role in international relations both past and present. There are several modifications that will be made in order to run this committee. There are twenty one delegates

attending, so for this simulation there are six extra countries in addition to the current membership of the Security Council.

These additional ten nations are:

- a. Albania
- b. Brazil
- c. Gabon
- d. Ghana
- e. India
- f. Ireland
- g. Kenya
- h. Mexico
- i. Norway
- j. United Arab Emirates (President of UNSC since March 2022)

The veto power of P5 states applies without alteration. Any P5 delegate will be able to utilize the veto power to block any resolution. The presidency of the Security Council will not play a role in this simulation, as the two chairs of the committee will facilitate debate instead of a representative from one of the member states. (P5 are the 5 permanent members of the security council)

ADDRESSING THE THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ATTACKS

INTRODUCTION

We shall first start by discussing the effects of terrorism on peace and security. As we know the world's efforts to maintain international peace and security have been undermined by the sporadic acts of terrorists who use violence to pursue their political objectives. From the year 2000 to 2010, the world experienced fresh attacks which were aided by advanced technology. The advancing twenty-first century technology provides sophisticated methods of unleashing terror, murder, kidnapping and victimisation of the civilians. This has made people live in constant fear and that one day humanity will be wiped out by such threats. This is because terrorists are not bound by the rules of international law, neither do they have a government as understood in the conventional sense of statehood, but they clandestinely perform covert and overt operations. The twenty first century terrorists seek to weaken governments, attack the strong bonds between the government and its subjects. Their activities cause political, economic, social and environmental damage. Terrorists, activities are transnational and have inevitably crossed porous borders. This has made it difficult for governments to control security systems since technology observes no borders. This has left governments exposed and

its power and responsibility to protect its citizens diminished. Now that we have understood a few of the effects of terrorism to peace and security let's move on to how the SC (Security council is dealing with this issue) as well as some opinions on how as the SC we could help this issue.

In its resolutions the security council encourages member states to consider developing comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies and effective mechanisms to implement them that include attention to the conditions conducive to terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, and encourages further CTED to, inter alia, cooperate with Member States and international, regional, and subregional organizations, and other relevant partners, upon request, to assess and advise on formulating comprehensive and integrated national and regional counter-terrorism strategies and the mechanisms to implement them. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) and paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 2129 (2013), CTED is requested to engage in a dialogue with Member States aimed at advising them, as appropriate, on the development of comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies and the introduction of implementing mechanisms that include attention to the factors that lead to terrorist activities. Terrorists are increasingly able to bypass law-enforcement measures and employ other methods, such as recruitment via the Internet and social media. This poses significant challenges to law enforcement and increases the overall threat.

States are therefore encouraged to consider, as part of their national strategies, measures to strengthen the resilience of the population through a balanced, multidisciplinary and holistic approach that integrates law-enforcement measures and measures to address the socio-economic, political, educational, developmental, human rights, gender and rule-of-law dimensions.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The global fight against the ever-shifting threat posed by Da'esh and its affiliates remains a "long-term game" for which there are "no quick fixes", the senior United Nations counter-terrorism official told the Security Council.

Valdimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counterterrorism, told the 15-member Council that recent events demonstrate the very real threat still posed by Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their spin-off groups. Outlining the contents of the Secretary-General's latest report, he also recalled his own recent briefing to the Council on the terrorism landscape in north-east Syria following a Da'esh jailbreak attempt in Al-Hasakah. That event, which resulted in significant clashes and put hundreds of children at risk, was a "shattering and sober reminder of Da'esh's extreme brutal violence", he said.

A subsequent targeted attack reportedly resulted in the death of the Da'esh leader, Amir Muhammad Sa'id Abdal-Rahman al-Salbi, widely known as Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi, he said. While that victory marks perhaps the most significant recent blow to the group's leadership

in years, he warned that Da'esh is known for its ability to re-group and even intensify its activities. “We have learned over the past two decades that counter-terrorism is a long-term game and that there are no quick fixes,” he stressed. Citing the need for both military counter-terrorism operations and more comprehensive measures with a focus on prevention, he urged States to use all tools at their disposal, adding: “As we begin a new decade of counter-terrorism, it is time to ask ourselves difficult questions and search for honest answers.”

Also briefing was Weixiong Chen, Acting Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, who spotlighted a shift by Da'esh to the African continent, as well as efforts to exploit recent developments in Afghanistan. Since 2020, he said, the terrorist threat has intersected with many COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges, with Da'esh and other terrorist groups seeking to exploit fault lines arising from social restrictions, political tension and economic downturns. Many States have been forced to divert counter-terrorism resources to pandemic-related efforts, while terrorists became even more adept at using social media and online platforms to pursue their aims, he said.

Da'esh is the official name of the terrorist group which is also known as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and ISIS.

As Council members took the floor, most agreed broadly that the threats posed by Da'esh, Al-Qaida and a range of other terrorist factions have not diminished, but instead have shifted to other modalities and other parts of the globe. Many voiced concerns about the plight of children caught up in the global battle against terrorism, noting the high numbers of detained children with presumed links to Da'esh in Syria and Iraq. However, speakers diverged over the utility and risks posed by repatriation efforts, as well as over the factors that continue to drive terrorism and allow it to continue proliferating.

Ghana's representative said more than 170,000 incidents of acts of terrorism have been recorded since 1970, and the estimated annual economic impact stands at \$26.4 billion. While gains have been made, more effort is required as the incidence of terrorism has proliferated, and organizations' networks have become more agile and global in scope. Outlining African regional efforts to push back the threat of terrorism, he went on to call for more international capacity-building assistance, emphasizing the continent's resource limitations and calling for greater investment in addressing terrorism's root causes.

Also spotlighting the challenges faced by Africa was the representative of Gabon, who noted that the network of small, shadowy Da'esh cells throughout the continent are diffuse and hard to tackle. Expressing concern over recent attacks by the groups Boko Haram, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and Al-Shabaab — all of which claim links with Da'esh — he added that the return and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters pose yet another risk, given the capacity of terrorist groups to carry out attacks remotely. “The face of terrorism is changing,” he stressed, advocating for an adapted global response and more assistance to States that are most vulnerable.

The representative of the United Arab Emirates was among those delegates who spotlighted both the challenges and opportunities presented by technological innovations in the fight against terrorism. Describing online tools as a “double-edged sword”, he called for steps to prevent

terrorist groups from exploiting digital tools to finance or carry out operations, while harnessing technology and artificial intelligence to protect societies from extremism and terrorism. “Efforts to bring stability and rebuild the liberated areas in Syria and Iraq must also be intensified,” he said, outlining his country’s support to those ends.

The United States’ delegate agreed with other speakers that the threat posed by the terrorist group has not disappeared. “As we have all seen, ISIS and those inspired by it continue to engage in horrific attacks, wherever and however they can,” he said. Recounting the United States-led attack that killed the group’s leader in Syria last week, he advocated for the repatriation of foreign fighters whenever possible from detention facilities in that country and Iraq, noting that the United States has so far repatriated 30 of its citizens. He also joined others in voicing concern that ISIS and Al-Qaida have metastasized in parts of Africa and grafted onto local conflicts and grievances to further their own aims.

The representative of the Russian Federation — while agreeing that “it is essential that we do not allow Africa to become a caliphate 2.0” — outlined a different view of the drivers of global terrorism. Noting that the failed United States presence in Syria has not contained the threat, he said thousands of women and children remain in appalling conditions in United States-controlled territory, adding that tackling the crisis is a question of “will and intentions”. Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the panicked flight of the United States and its allies left huge volumes of modern weapons and technology, which fell into the hands of ISIS and helped increase its capabilities. “The imposition by force of cookie-cutter democratic values could not have brought any good to the countries being experimented on,” he said.

Case studies

First case : United States of America (One of the 5 permanent members of the UNSC)

The first case study we will be looking into is the cause that I am sure many of you are familiar with. The attack happened on the 11th of September in 2001 in New York city. Four planes had hit the two twin towers in New York. The hijackers of these planes were Islamic terrorists from Saudi Arabia and several other Islamic Countries.

First, a plane crashed into Pentagon Military headquarters and not even 15 minutes later another plane crashed into one of the towers of the World Trade organization. Soon after the other plane crashed into the other tower of the World Trade organization killing thousands of people. Finally, the last plane hijack of the day failed to make any further disruption but all people in the plane died.

Second case : United Arab Emirates (President of the UNSC 2022)

Terrorism attacks in the UAE are said to be rare. It is however linked to some heinous terrorism crimes such as the “9/11” which took part in the United States in the year 2001. It is said that months prior to the incident, the terrorist flew to the country’s capital where they were able to get a connecting flight to the United States.

We get to see in the commission report more ways in which the UAE was linked to the specific attack that resulted to loss of lives.

The United Arab Emirates continues to work with the United States on their plan to counter terrorism.

Some investors in the UAE have been previously implicated for giving financial assistance to lakshar-e-taib. (One of the terrorism groups.) This was after an investigation done by the United Nations in the year 2008 where they had orchestrated a crime in Mumbai, India.

United Arab Emirates continues to work with the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as the United States and other donor countries as it works towards coming up with peaceful solutions against all forms of terrorism as well counter violent extremist and the financing of terrorism.

WHAT QUESTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANSWERED IN YOUR RESOLUTION?

- 1)How does terrorism effect international peace and security.
- 2)How is it affecting your delegation
- 3)How much terrorism is there in your delegation
- 4)Who were affected and how were they affected
- 5)Would less terrorism make international peace and security better?
- 6) If so, how would it make it better?

- 7)What has worked to reduce terrorism
- 8)Are the recent proposals already made by the UNSC effective?
- 9)What dont we know yet?
- 10)How would your resolution help international peace and security?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

For more information on the UNSC and what they do:

The Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council are contained in document S/96/Rev.7 (Sales number 83.I.4).

Background information about the work of the Council can be retrieved from the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council as well as from the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.

The basic format for the **symbols** of Security Council documents is:

- S/year/sequential number:
 - Example: S/2012/33
- From 1946 to 1993, the format was S/sequential number:
 - Example: S/24111

For the first case study (United States of America):

https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/9-11-attacks#section_1

<https://www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks>

<https://www.911memorial.org/911-faqs>

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-911REPORT/pdf/GPO-911REPORT.pdf>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2021/09/02/two-decades-later-the-enduring-legacy-of-9-11/>

For the second case study (United Arab Emirates)

<https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2017/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates

Once again wishing you a fruitful and lively debate.