



# General Assembly

Distr.: General

17 July 2020

English

Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

## Seventy-fifth session

Item 103 (v) of the provisional agenda\*

## General and complete disarmament

# Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

## Report of the Secretary-General

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction . . . . .	2
II. Replies received from Governments . . . . .	3
Armenia . . . . .	3
Brunei Darussalam . . . . .	3
Colombia . . . . .	4
Cuba . . . . .	6
Ecuador . . . . .	8
India . . . . .	8
Nicaragua . . . . .	10
Panama . . . . .	12
Qatar . . . . .	12
Ukraine . . . . .	15
III. Reply received from the European Union . . . . .	16
IV. Replies received from international organizations . . . . .	17
International Atomic Energy Agency . . . . .	17
Office of Counter-Terrorism . . . . .	18
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons . . . . .	19
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization . . . . .	20
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime . . . . .	21

\* A/75/150.



## I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [74/43](#), 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. In its resolution [74/43](#), the General Assembly also encouraged cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in that regard.

3. In the same resolution, the General 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, 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-fifth session. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

4. By a note verbale dated 29 January 2020, Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issue. A revised note verbale was sent to Member States on 4 May 2020 by which the deadline for the submission of reports was extended until 31 May 2020. Any views received after 31 May 2020 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language of submission. No addenda will be issued. Letters dated 9 June 2020 were dispatched to relevant international organizations, including relevant entities of the United Nations system. Member States and relevant international organizations were invited to provide executive summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General and were informed that their submissions in extenso would be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([www.un.org/disarmament](http://www.un.org/disarmament)), 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 has been received and is reproduced in section III, in accordance with the modalities set out in General Assembly resolution [65/276](#).

## II. Replies received from Governments

### Armenia

[Original: English]

[15 May 2020]

The Republic of Armenia is taking necessary measures to strengthen relevant national and supranational legally and politically binding instruments with a view to tackling the threat posed by the possible acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists or other criminal groups.

Armenia is a party to the main international conventions on combating terrorism, such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Commitment to full implementation and compliance with regard to these vital instruments is of the utmost importance for countering terrorism, including the acquisition of hazardous materials by terrorist groups. In this vein, Armenia has implemented a broad set of legislative and administrative measures to strengthen nuclear security at the national level. In addition, relevant legal instruments have been established in accordance with the national implementation provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. The 2015–2020 national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) has served to lay the groundwork for a complex and forward-looking effort to update national capacities.

The design of the system of export control of dual-use agents, including with regard to inter-agency cooperation, the maintenance of a list of controlled agents, and capacity-building measures, is aligned with international standards and requirements. Armenia is doing whatever it takes to continuously enhance its capabilities to counter nuclear smuggling in a comprehensive manner. Efforts in that regard concern information collection and sharing, analysis, law enforcement and issues of technical preparedness. Close interaction has been established among relevant governmental agencies, including the country's financial intelligence unit, within the framework of combating money-laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing.

Close bilateral and multilateral cooperation is an essential part of the Republic of Armenia's policy in this regard. A number of programmes that include field exercises, the exchange of knowledge and the provision of equipment are periodically implemented with the participation of regional and other actors.

### Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]

[31 May 2020]

The growing threats of terrorism, including terrorists' ability to acquire various weapons of mass destruction, remain concerning. Brunei Darussalam is committed to counter-terrorism efforts and strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The counter-terrorism strategy of Brunei Darussalam is anchored in a whole-of-government approach, with the active participation of various local agencies, including the police force, customs, immigration, labour and finance control. The strategy covers a broad spectrum of measures such as preventive efforts, capability developments, legislative enhancements and the preservation of social and religious unity.

In addition to cooperation at the domestic level, all the relevant security agencies play a crucial role in enhancing their networks and information exchanges with relevant external counterparts. In that regard, regimes to control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction proliferation at the regional and international levels have been consistently supported by Brunei Darussalam through diplomatic and practical efforts, either bilaterally or in concert with regional and international partners.

Brunei Darussalam is a State Member of the United Nations and a State member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional cooperation forums that seek to stem the flow of suspect components that contribute to the production and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by terrorists. Brunei Darussalam also participates as an observer and active participant in non-proliferation and practical counter-terrorism exercises, such as those that fall under the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus.

## Colombia

[Original: Spanish]  
[28 May 2020]

The Republic of Colombia is voluntarily submitting this report pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [74/43](#) on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, which reads as follows:

“5. Requests 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 General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session”.

Preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is a common objective of all States in the international community and is thus a priority for the Government of Colombia.

The strong commitment of Colombia to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is enshrined in article 81 of the country's Political Constitution, pursuant to which “the manufacture, importation, possession or use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, and the entry of nuclear or toxic waste into the country, are prohibited. The State shall regulate the entry into and exit from the country of genetic resources, and the use of such resources, in accordance with the national interest.”

At the legal and institutional levels, Colombia is committed to and capable of addressing the latent and evolving threat that weapons of mass destructive pose to international peace and security. The technical capacities of institutions have been strengthened to ensure the fulfilment of their obligations in that regard.

Colombia has carried out a number of actions to implement the unanimously adopted Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), which is in line with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. These actions include the submission of national reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

Following the launch of the national action plan, and with the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Inter-American Committee

against Terrorism of the Organization of American States, Chile and Colombia conducted a peer review exercise in October 2017 to enable the two countries to evaluate and share experiences, procedures and best practices regarding the implementation of the resolution at the national level. On the basis of the review, a number of recommendations were developed to strengthen the action plans of both countries.

In the light of the synergies among the various international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation, a workshop on biosafety and biosecurity in the context of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the Biological Weapons Convention was held in Bogotá on 14–15 November 2019, with the support of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

Some 40 delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, in addition to representatives of Colombian entities, participated in the event. The workshop provided an opportunity to consider topics related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), areas in which the resolution intersects with the Biological Weapons Convention, and biosafety and biosecurity issues relevant to the two instruments.

On 18 November 2019, the competent Colombian entities held an inter-institutional coordination meeting on the development of a new national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Representatives of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism also attended the meeting to provide support. A new action plan for the period 2020–2021 was drafted on the basis of that meeting and is currently being finalized by the national authorities.

Various offences related to terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction have been criminalized under Colombian criminal law. The crime of terrorism is established in two articles of the Colombian Criminal Code.

In Article 144, acts of terrorism are referred to as falling under the category of crimes against persons and property that are violations of international humanitarian law.

Terrorism and the most common related offences, such as criminal conspiracy and incitement to commit terrorist offences, are defined in article 343.

Furthermore, pursuant to article 214 of the Political Constitution, “... neither human rights nor fundamental freedoms may be suspended. In every circumstance, the rules of international humanitarian law shall be observed”.

The Constitutional Court has stated emphatically that respect for humanitarian law must be immediate and permanent and takes precedence over domestic law, not only under normal circumstances but also in states of emergency. In judgment No. 574 of 1992, it stated that: “At this time, the rules of international humanitarian law are – by the express wish of the authors of the Constitution – binding rules per se.”

The country has also adopted measures to prevent, detect, investigate and punish the financing of terrorism.

The Colombian Financial Information and Analysis Unit has determined that prevention and detection are fundamental aspects of the anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism system promoted by the Financial Action Task Force (which sets standards and promotes effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of proliferation, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system).

It has been crucially important to continue combating the financing of terrorism. Such efforts require increasing cooperation, strengthening the means of and channels for the exchange of financial information and intelligence, and enhancing judicial cooperation, extradition procedures and the implementation of travel alerts.

Colombia has a legal framework in place to prevent the financing of terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of proliferation. It also fulfils its international obligations concerning the freezing of assets and the prohibition of the management of funds or other assets of persons or entities associated with terrorist acts or terrorist groups, in particular its obligations under Security Council resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1988 \(2011\)](#), [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1718 \(2006\)](#) and [1737 \(2006\)](#).

The Government is expected to adopt, in 2020, a new National Council on Economic and Social Policy document concerning the national policy for combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which will include guidelines in line with Financial Action Task Force of Latin America recommendations 6 and 7.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]  
[8 May 2020]

The only sure way to prevent the acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction, including by terrorists, is by prohibiting and eliminating such weapons totally in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. As long as weapons of mass destruction exist, there will remain a latent threat to international peace and security.

Cuba neither possesses nor intends to acquire weapons of mass destruction. It strongly supports their total and complete prohibition and elimination. Cuba has never allowed and will never allow terrorist acts of any kind against any State to be carried out, planned or financed on its territory. Cuba strongly condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, by whomever, against whomsoever and wherever committed, regardless of motivation.

Cuba has adopted legislative, administrative and institutional measures in that regard, including provisions to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

We have an effective, predictable and reliable system for implementing, at the national level, our international obligations as a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the conventions on chemical and biological weapons.

The Government of Cuba has maintained a consistent stance against terrorism, as reflected in its ratification of 18 of the international counter-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, referred to explicitly in General Assembly resolution [71/38](#).

Act No. 93, on counter-terrorism, modified by Decree-Law No. 316 of 2013, and Decree-Law No. 317 of 2013, concerning the prevention and detection of operations in efforts to combat money-laundering, the financing of terrorism, arms proliferation and illicit capital flows, were adopted to strengthen national measures to prevent the country from being used as a conduit for the acquisition by terrorists

of weapons of mass destruction or their components. The Criminal Code sets out penalties for all acts of terrorism, including those that involve weapons of mass destruction.

The national laws in force, and their application, ensure the country's fulfilment of its obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), as reflected in the national report submitted by Cuba to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

The effective programme developed by Cuba to train front-line officers working at the borders has made it possible to effectively detect any elements that might be associated with a terrorist act. An Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has enabled us to strengthen controls at ports and airports, and also in hospitals and other institutions working with radioactive materials. A team of trained professionals is available to help prevent terrorist acts during important events, visits by high-profile persons and mass events. The National Customs Service, through its Instruction No. 1 of 8 May 2015 and in close collaboration with IAEA, has put nuclear security detection architecture in place at borders.

The United Nations should focus its efforts on combating terrorism, including by promoting effective international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorist acts, on the basis of strict compliance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Global efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism should be guided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The selective and discriminatory initiatives promoted by groups of countries outside the multilateral context weaken the role of the United Nations in all aspects of the fight against weapons of mass destruction, including efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring such weapons.

Work on disarmament and non-proliferation should be centred around the General Assembly and the multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction in force, and no measure adopted by the Security Council should undermine their key roles.

The best contribution that the States members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons could make to international efforts to prevent these weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists would be to ensure that all stockpiles of chemical weapons are destroyed as soon as possible. The United States is the only State member that possesses such weapons, as it has not completely destroyed its stockpile.

In order to eliminate the possibility of bacteriological agents or toxins being used as weapons by any type of actor, it is crucial to adopt a legally binding protocol that strengthens the Biological Weapons Convention in a comprehensive and balanced manner and provides for international cooperation, assistance and verification. This would be another means of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

The adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 was a significant step towards nuclear disarmament. We hope that this, together with the adoption of additional measures, will lead to the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the risk of terrorists acquiring such weapons. Cuba is honoured to be a State Party to the Treaty.

## Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]  
[31 May 2020]

The Constitution of Ecuador expressly condemns the production, possession, commercialization, importation, transfer, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass destruction, regardless of who does it.

The Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code of Ecuador establishes severe penalties for any person who develops, produces, manufactures, uses, acquires, possesses, distributes, stockpiles, holds, transports, transits, imports, exports, re-exports or markets chemical, biological and toxin or nuclear weapons.

Ecuador has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, thereby reaffirming its commitment to combating the sabotage and smuggling of nuclear materials and their possible use for terrorist purposes.

Ecuador has participated actively in the International Conferences on Nuclear Security held under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, most recently at the Conference held in February 2020. The Conferences are the most appropriate forum for addressing nuclear security challenges in an inclusive manner. In that connection, Ecuador is concerned that issues of universal interest, such as nuclear security, are being addressed in forums that are outside the framework of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and bodies, and in which only a few States participate.

Ecuador believes that as long as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons remain in the possession of States, there is a risk of their use.

For this reason, in discussions of weapons of mass destruction and the risk of their proliferation to non-State actors, it is essential not to overlook the primary responsibility of States to fulfil their obligations under the various international, universal and regional instruments in this sphere, bearing in mind that 85 per cent of the nuclear material in the world is for military purposes and is thus outside the scope of existing international nuclear security agreements.

The only weapons of mass destruction that had not been prohibited by a universal legally binding instrument were nuclear weapons. This lacuna was filled with the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to which Ecuador is a Party.

As long as stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction exist, there is a high risk of their being used for criminal or terrorist purposes. The best way to ensure that this does not occur is therefore to eliminate them completely.

## India

[Original: English]  
[27 May 2020]

India co-sponsored General Assembly resolution [74/43](#), entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, to highlight the concerns of the international community with regard to weapons of mass destruction in the context of terrorism, which remains one of the gravest threats facing the international community. Tackling the threat of terrorism that transcends borders necessitates a coordinated response at the national, multilateral and global levels.



India expresses satisfaction that the resolution was adopted by the General Assembly without a vote and supports its continued implementation.

India is well cognizant of the challenges to the global community that are posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and has supported global efforts for preventing their proliferation. As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, India remains aware of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of such weapons to non-State actors and terrorists could entail. India has consistently underlined the state responsibility and accountability of Member States in combating terrorism, dismantling its support infrastructure or curbing its linkages with weapons of mass destruction.

India is a party to all 13 universal instruments accepted as benchmarks for a State's commitments to combat all forms of terrorism, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. 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 Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment provide a firm basis for translating broader political commitments into legally binding measures. India has also been effectively implementing commitments under Security Council resolutions [1540 \(2004\)](#) and [1373 \(2001\)](#), in accordance with its national resolve to fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

India has taken steps to prohibit access to weapons of mass destruction by terrorists and non-State actors by introducing measures at the national level. India has in place a well-established, stringent and effective export control system based on legislation, regulations and a control list of dual-use items and technologies consistent with the highest international standards. The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act of 2005, provides an integrated and overarching legislation on prohibiting unlawful activities pertaining to weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials, equipment and technologies.

India believes that multilateral export control regimes have contributed to non-proliferation goals by issuing guidelines for export controls and lists of specific goods and technologies the export of which should be regulated. India has accordingly joined multilateral export control regimes such as the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group. India has been actively contributing to the efforts of these regimes to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including their acquisition by non-State actors. Its national export control list of special chemicals, organisms, materials, equipment and technologies is updated annually to harmonize it with the latest guidelines and control lists issued by the four multilateral export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group, even though India is not a member of the Group.

The Government of India, along with its industry partners, has remained engaged in outreach activities as an integral part of the implementation of its export control system. In 2019, outreach activities included a programme on the national export control framework in the context of the aerospace and defence industry, an industry interaction to discuss the intangible transfer of technology, and an awareness programme for the chemical industry. In addition, the third National Conference on Export Controls was held in New Delhi in July 2019, and the second international workshop on product security and safeguarding the international supply chain for commercial grade explosives was held in Nagpur in August 2019.

India has always been supportive of enhanced international cooperation, including through the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other relevant forums, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass

destruction. India has contributed to the Nuclear Security Summit process and actively participated in the third International Conference on Nuclear Security, held on the theme “Sustaining and strengthening efforts”, held in Vienna from 10 to 14 February 2020. India is also an active participant in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Nuclear Security Contact Group. While remaining steadfast in its commitment to contribute to global efforts to strengthen nuclear security, India firmly believes that nuclear security is fundamentally a national responsibility and has been taking all essential steps in that regard.

The Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership became operational in April 2017. Since then, it has conducted more than 25 international programmes including training courses, workshops and technical meetings, which have drawn approximately 400 participants from more than 40 Member States. The Centre has signed memorandums of understanding with 10 countries, including with the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and with IAEA, on strengthening global nuclear security.

Under the OPCW National Authority Mentorship/Partnership Programme, India invited authorities from Afghanistan to participate in the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The first round of the Programme was held in New Delhi from 29 April to 3 May 2019.

## Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]  
[22 April 2020]

### 1. Efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery

Nicaragua reaffirms its position in support of the efforts of the international community to promote nuclear disarmament and combat terrorism in all its forms, including all actions necessary to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Nicaragua has taken various actions in that regard, some of which are set out below.

The national regulatory framework has been aligned with the provisions of international treaties and standards concerning general efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the financing of such proliferation. These weapons are prohibited on the basis of the following provision of the Constitution:

“Part I. Fundamental principles. Article 5.... Recognizes the principle of the peaceful settlement of international disputes through the means provided for in international law, and prohibits the use of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction in internal and international conflicts.”

On the basis of this article of the Constitution, Nicaragua has adopted a number of laws that provide the country with sufficient legal power to criminalize violations of this prohibition and other crimes associated with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to impose penalties in the event that such crimes are committed.

The use of weapons of mass destruction is thus punishable in Nicaragua. Moreover, Nicaragua does not produce such weapons or their precursors and has never supplied, transported or stockpiled them, and no weapons of mass destruction of any kind, or their precursors or means of delivery, have transited its territory.

**2. Accession to and ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and review of its implementation**

Nicaragua has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. It has also approved and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

**3. Adoption and strengthening of 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**

The use of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction in internal and international conflicts is prohibited under the Political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua and the following legal instruments:

- A. Special Act No. 510, on the control and regulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, which sets out the weapons of mass destruction that fall under the category of prohibited weapons;
- B. Act No. 641, containing the Penal Code, pursuant to which weapons that are prohibited under national law, including weapons of mass destruction, may not be brought into the country, taken out of the country, transported, owned, handed on, brokered, stockpiled, stored, distributed or transferred, whether from outside or within the national territory;
- C. Act No. 977, on combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which provides for special powers for the designated authorities responsible for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;
- D. Decree No. 15-2018, implementing regulations for Act No. 977, which sets out the procedures for the implementation of Security Council resolutions and their successor resolutions;
- E. Decree No. 17-2014, on the implementations of measures to freeze funds and assets connected with terrorism and the financing of terrorism;
- F. Act No. 156, the Ionizing Radiation Act;
- G. Executive Decree No. 24-93, on the creation of the National Atomic Energy Commission.

**4. Cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard**

Nicaragua has reaffirmed its determination to combat continuously terrorism in all its forms through the sovereign security system established by Act No. 919, on the sovereign security of the Republic of Nicaragua.

The country has a system in place to ensure continuous coordination and cooperation among State institutions in order to maintain security, peace and stability.

A National Commission to Combat Money-laundering, the Financing of Terrorism and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, attached to the National Council on Organized Crime, was established through the adoption of Act No. 977 in order to strengthen the country's capacity to combat the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction at the national level.

The Government of Unity and National Reconciliation, headed by Commander Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo, has thus reaffirmed its political will to contribute

to global counter-terrorism efforts in order to promote international peace and security.

## **Panama**

[Original: Spanish]

[31 May 2020]

The Republic of Panama reiterates its strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motivations and objectives and by whomsoever committed.

It recognizes that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors is a scourge that affects all States and must be addressed through multilateralism, which is the only way to develop effective strategies to counter such proliferation.

It considers that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a serious threat to peace, democratic stability and national and international security, and that all States should accordingly focus on developing a logical long-term strategy to address, inter alia, the threat posed by non-State actors, in particular those with terrorist aims, attempting to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery or receiving assistance of any kind, including financial assistance.

Panama believes that it is necessary to continue to strengthen preventive and deterrent measures for the financial and economic sectors in order to prevent the risk of terrorist groups or persons acting on their behalf, individually or collectively, using those systems to fund their activities, including proliferation.

Panama reiterates that there is value to States in maintaining and enhancing the security of all materials and facilities that could be used to produce or use chemical, biological, nuclear or radioactive materials, in order to ensure that they do not fall into the hands of non-State actors, including terrorist organizations.

Panama has ratified the main international counter-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and supports the work done through the International Atomic Energy Agency to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Panama reaffirms its support for the measures promoted through the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The country's action plan for the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) was adopted in 2018. Panama also supports the measures taken under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative, which are global initiatives that promote the strengthening of national capacities to combat the terrorist threat.

Panama also wishes to highlight the support provided to States by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States with a view to enhancing the national capacities of States in the region.

## **Qatar**

[Original: Arabic]

[20 May 2020]

The General Authority of Customs is aware of its crucial role in combating terrorism and the threat to national, regional and international security posed by the

acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist individuals or entities. The Authority implements the relevant United Nations resolutions on counter-terrorism and the Punta Cana resolution, adopted by the World Customs Organization Policy Commission in 2015, on the role of customs authorities in combating international terrorism. It also takes into account the need to adopt preventive measures at border crossings and raise the awareness of those working on the front lines to enable them to detect the raw materials used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction (chemical precursors, toxic biological agents, nuclear materials), their means of delivery and the technologies used to manufacture them. The following is a summary of measures taken to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction:

## **1. Customs measures taken in respect of chemical weapons**

The General Authority of Customs plays an important role in implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, whose provisions were ratified by Legislative Decree No. 58 (2003); Act No. 16 (2013) on chemical weapons and its implementing regulations, promulgated by Decision No. 11 (2019); and Act No. 30 (2002) on protection of the environment. In addition, the General Authority of Customs is a member of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons established pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 26 (2004).

The chemical precursors listed in the three schedules of the Convention are restricted substances that may only be imported or exported with prior approval from the Ministry of Municipality and Environment and the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons. The General Authority of Customs monitors the movement of precursors listed in Schedule 3 through an electronic customs clearance system, which includes a risk management system. Chemical materials are generally restricted by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, which has staff specializing in chemical materials posted at border crossings to detect the presence of those materials, and works in coordination with the Customs Authority in the event of any violation of existing laws, decisions or legislation. Each substance listed in the Schedule is handled in accordance with the rules set forth in the Convention. The General Authority of Customs, in conjunction with the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, prepares the annual declarations of the State of Qatar on the import and export of chemical precursors listed in the Convention, and conducts checks on final importers and exporters in order to verify that the materials are being imported or exported for peaceful uses in industry and in academic and medical research, in line with the Convention.

In addition, the General Authority of Customs pays attention to building the capacity of its staff by training them to identify chemical weapons, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Pursuant to the Customs Act (No. 40 of 2002), the General Authority of Customs conducts customs investigations and keeps records of seizures, violations and smuggling offences, which it forwards to the competent law enforcement authorities for the conduct of investigations to ascertain criminal intent and rule out links to terrorist offences or offences involving money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

## **2. Customs measures taken in respect of nuclear weapons**

The General Authority of Customs plays an important role in restricting nuclear weapons by implementing national legislation and international conventions and treaties. That includes Act No. 3 (2018) on a national system for accounting for and

monitoring nuclear materials; Act No. 30 (2002) on protection of the environment; Act No. 31 (2002) on radiation protection; Decree No. 38 (1989), pursuant to which Qatar acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; Decree No. 123 (2004), pursuant to which Qatar acceded to the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials; and Decree No. 17 (2009) ratifying the safeguards agreement concluded under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the small quantities protocol concluded between Qatar and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In addition, the General Authority of Customs is a member of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons established pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 26 (2004).

The Authority does not generally permit the import or export of any nuclear materials without the authorization of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment and the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons. Nor does it generally permit the import of any radioactive sources without the authorization of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, which employs radiation specialists to detect nuclear and radioactive materials. The Authority monitors the movement of nuclear and radioactive materials through an electronic customs clearance system, which includes a risk management system. In addition, some border crossings are equipped with radiation portal monitors and portable detectors. The General Authority of Customs, in conjunction with the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, prepares annual declarations of nuclear materials and sends them to IAEA under the small quantities protocol concluded between Qatar and the Agency. The General Authority of Customs also conducts checks on final importers and exporters of nuclear materials in order to verify that they are being imported or exported for peaceful uses in industry and academic and medical research.

In addition, the General Authority of Customs pays attention to building the capacity of its staff by training them to identify nuclear materials, in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons and IAEA.

Pursuant to the Customs Act (No. 40 of 2002), the General Authority of Customs conducts customs investigations and keeps records of seizures, violations and smuggling offences, which it forwards to the competent law enforcement authorities for the conduct of investigations to ascertain criminal intent and rule out links to terrorist offences or offences involving money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

### **3. Customs measures taken in respect of biological weapons**

The General Authority of Customs plays an important role in restricting biological weapons, in accordance with Act No. 4 (2016) on biological weapons; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, ratified by Decree No. 32 (2001); and Act No. 30 (2002) on protection of the environment. The aforementioned Act on biological weapons contains a control list of biological agents and toxins; the Act prohibits the import of weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed for the use of biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

The Customs Authority does not generally permit the import or export of any biological materials without the approval of the competent authorities, in accordance with the procedures of the customs clearance system and with the risk criteria.

In addition, the General Customs Authority pays attention to building the capacity of its staff by training them to identify biological weapons, in cooperation with the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons and the International

Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). To that end, it is participating in the INTERPOL Biosecure workshop to build the capacity of law enforcement officers. The General Customs Authority also participates in national training courses on emergencies and responding to biological incidents.

Pursuant to the Customs Act (No. 40 of 2002), the General Authority of Customs conducts customs investigations and keeps records of seizures, violations and smuggling offences, which it forwards to the competent law enforcement authorities for the conduct of investigations to ascertain criminal intent and rule out links to terrorist offences or offences involving money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

## Ukraine

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2020]

With regard to the provisions of the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with the Accession of Ukraine to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest, 5 December 1994), Ukraine has completely eliminated existing nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. Ukraine supports international efforts and takes all necessary national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture in order to maintain international peace and security.

In early 2014, in response to the Russian military aggression and occupation of Crimea, the state system of physical protection, in accordance with Decree No. 1337 of 21 December 2011 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the establishment of the order of functioning of the state system of physical protection, was transferred from the “normal functioning” mode to “increased alert”. The operation of the system applies to nuclear facilities, facilities related to the management of nuclear waste, nuclear materials, radioactive waste, other sources of ionizing radiation and radioactive materials detected during illicit trafficking. The state system of physical protection continues to operate in the “increased alert” mode.

On 6 December 2019, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a new law on preventing and counteracting the legalization (money-laundering) of the proceeds from crime or terrorism financing as well as financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

One of the provisions of the law envisages the freezing of assets associated with terrorism and its financing and with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its financing, thereby ensuring the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions on preventing and counteracting terrorism financing. The freezing of terrorists’ assets, in accordance with the law, is carried out immediately and until further notice, unless the entity in question is excluded from the relevant United Nations list.

The Security Service of Ukraine has significantly strengthened cooperation with intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies of key partner countries. The exchange of information on objects of operational interest and practical measures with regard to counter-terrorism, including the non-admission of terrorist emissaries to the territory of Ukraine, is carried out regularly.

In this regard, cooperation with the United States is actively developing. In particular, a new two-year technical assistance project on the nuclear security readiness of Ukraine was launched on 27 January 2020 in cooperation with the

Defense Threat Reduction Agency. The project provides for military-technical and command-staff exercises by the end of 2020.

The project is implemented in accordance with an international programme on the inclusion of State physical protection systems in the structure of global nuclear security, which provides for the organization and funding of exercises to study the level of cooperation between the parties involved in the physical protection of nuclear power plants, including the optimization of relevant response plans.

### III. Reply received from the European Union

[Original: English]

[15 May 2020]

The European Union remains strongly committed to preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear, chemical, biological and missile materials, technical know-how and technology. Throughout 2019, the European Union continued 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. Through Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1939, the European Union promotes the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention. Under Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2383, the European Union contributes to the International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Security Plan for 2018–2021. The European Union and its member States are actively involved in the work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in all areas, namely nuclear detection, nuclear forensics, and response and mitigation. The European Nuclear Security Training Centre continues its successful operations on detecting and responding to illicit acts involving nuclear and other radioactive materials.

Throughout 2019, the European Union continued to provide political, diplomatic and financial support to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to ensure the full and effective implementation of, and universal adherence to, the Chemical Weapons Convention. On 1 April 2019, the European Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2019/538, including a financial package of €11,601,256 in support of OPCW core activities. In line with the European Council conclusions of 28 June 2018, the European Union also engaged in extensive diplomatic outreach, encouraging a constructive approach to the implementation of OPCW Decision C-SS-4/DEC and a successful outcome of the twenty-fourth Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. The European Union continued its firm support for the work of the OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Declaration Assessment Team in investigating reports of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic and seeking to verify that country's declaration.

The European Union continued its strong political and financial support for the effective implementation and universalization of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. In 2019, the European Council adopted its fifth consecutive decision in support of the Convention, Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/97; Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/1296 in support of strengthening biological safety and security in Ukraine in line with the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#); and Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/2108 in support of strengthening biological safety and security in Latin America.

The European Union actively participated in the review process of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), which led to the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution



2325 (2016). The European Union supports the effective implementation of resolution 2325 (2016) through Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/809.

The European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative is a worldwide capacity-building programme, currently gathering 61 partner countries grouped around 8 regional secretariats. The aim of the Initiative is to mitigate risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, strengthen the preparedness of partner countries and nurture security culture and governance. By implementing export controls in accordance with the export control lists of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Australia Group, the European Union contributes to preventing terrorist networks from accessing weapons of mass destruction and related technology.

## IV. Replies received from international organizations

### International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]  
[2 July 2020]

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to assist States, upon request, through the implementation of its Nuclear Security Plan for 2018–2021.

The Agency promoted the universal adherence to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, one of the primary binding international instruments relevant to nuclear security, including by organizing informal meetings to initiate formal preparations for the 2021 conference of States parties to the Amendment.

The Agency continued to develop comprehensive guidance on nuclear security with the active involvement of experts from IAEA member States. The Nuclear Security Guidance Committee met twice in 2019 and issued six new publications. By the end of 2019, IAEA issued a cumulative total of 38 publications in the Nuclear Security Series, with more than 15 draft publications under development.

To help member States to fulfil their international obligations, the Agency, inter alia, carried out five International Physical Protection Advisory Service missions in 2019, bringing to 90 the total number of such missions conducted to date. The Advisory Service provides member States with peer advice on implementing the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and other international instruments, and IAEA guidance on the protection of nuclear and other radioactive material as well as associated facilities and activities.

Incidents reported to the Incident and Trafficking Database demonstrate that illicit trafficking, thefts, losses and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive material continue to occur. In 2019, States reported 189 incidents involving nuclear and other radioactive material outside of regulatory control, bringing the total in the Database to 3,686 confirmed incidents reported by participating States.

In 2019, IAEA continued to advise States on formal threat characterization and assessment; the development, use and maintenance of design basis threats; vulnerability analysis; and the development of methodologies for performance assessment of physical protection systems. Other activities, such as securing vulnerable radioactive sources, upgrading facilities and repatriating highly enriched uranium, continued.

The Agency also continued to provide assistance to member States in implementing nuclear security systems and measures for major public events. In 2019, such assistance was provided to 11 States, with more than 750 radiation detection instruments loaned to support States in securing major public events.

In 2019, the Agency conducted 122 training activities related to nuclear and radiological security, including 57 at the national level and 65 at the international or regional level, for more than 2,800 participants from 145 States.

## Office of Counter-Terrorism

[Original: English]  
[26 June 2020]

In 2019, the Office of Counter-Terrorism operationalized the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact as a vehicle to promote and support a balanced implementation, by Member States, of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The Compact brings together 40 United Nations entities as well as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, representing one of the largest coordination frameworks in the United Nations system. Under the umbrella of the Compact, two inter-agency working groups, respectively focused on border management and law enforcement related to counter-terrorism and on emerging threats and critical infrastructure protection, coordinated activities related to preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Also in 2019, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, through its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, began the implementation of a multi-year programme on preventing, combating and responding to weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. During the reporting period, the Centre delivered capacity-building activities at the global, regional and national levels, benefiting 43 countries and 219 officials, including international workshops on countering nuclear terrorism in Africa and the Middle East, national training sessions on countering biological and chemical terrorism in Iraq, and national workshops on responding to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism in Jordan. The Centre implemented the activities in partnership with the European Union, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United States of America. In addition, it formally became a provider of assistance to support Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

Within the framework of the inter-agency working group on emerging threats and critical infrastructure protection, the Centre developed and co-implemented two projects with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The first project is focused on the misuse of science and technology to perpetrate terrorist attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, and the second addresses international inter-agency interoperability in case of a chemical or biological attack. The Centre also worked closely with INTERPOL to develop a study on advancing knowledge and understanding of the global risk and threat level regarding terrorists accessing and using weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials to perpetrate terrorist attacks.

The Centre coordinated activities and collaborated with other United Nations entities, international organizations and initiatives, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, as well as the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Nuclear Security Contact Group and the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

## Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

[Original: English]  
[9 July 2020]

The contribution of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Technical Secretariat to global counter-terrorism efforts continued to be guided by the Chemical Weapons Convention and decisions of the policymaking organs.<sup>1</sup> In particular, the contribution was guided by OPCW Executive Council Decision EC-86/DEC.9 of 13 October 2017, in which the Council underscored the role of OPCW within its mandate with respect to preventing and responding to the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors to the object and purpose of the Convention. The importance of building the capacity of States parties to fully and effectively implement the Convention, to counter chemical terrorism and to investigate and prosecute non-State actors for carrying out acts prohibited by the Convention was also recognized in that decision.

The 193 States members of OPCW continued exchanging views on the challenges posed by chemical terrorism and the ways in which OPCW could further address those challenges, through the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism of the Executive Council, which meets regularly.

In order to support international cooperation, the OPCW Technical Secretariat continued its active participation in the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact. The Technical Secretariat is one of the vice-chairs of the Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, which is chaired by the International Criminal Police Organization. It has worked with other United Nations entities and international organizations to develop a project to enhance inter-agency interoperability and public communications in the event of a chemical or biological terrorist attack. The Technical Secretariat also continued its long-standing cooperation with the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in areas of mutual interest, namely to strengthen the awareness of States parties about the relevant obligations of the Convention and the resolution, and to offer them assistance with regard to national legislation, chemical security, and customs and border control.

The wide range of capacity-building activities of the Technical Secretariat continued to support States parties to fully and effectively implement the Convention in three key areas: national legislation to criminalize activities prohibited by the Convention; prevention of the hostile use of toxic chemicals by enhancing global chemical security at all stages of the chemical life cycle; and support for regional and national capacities to respond to the hostile use of toxic chemicals as well as enhancement of the capacity of OPCW to assist States parties upon request. The Technical Secretariat also continued to build the capacity of laboratories around the world to safely analyse a wide range of relevant chemicals. The upgrade of the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store, which will become the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology, will help to develop, nurture and enhance such capabilities in a sustainable way.

<sup>1</sup> For full details, see OPCW, “Note by the Director-General: status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts”, 20 February 2020 (EC-93/DG.10).

Finally, the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board, by assessing and reporting on developments in the scientific and technological fields, continued to help to ensure that States parties and the Technical Secretariat are better placed to mitigate the threat of chemical weapons use by non-State actors.

## **Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

[Original: English]  
[6 July 2020]

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty prohibits any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion and requires States parties to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under their jurisdiction or control.

The Treaty contributes to international efforts to prevent States and all individuals and entities under their jurisdiction from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by complementing and reinforcing other international agreements and measures. In broad terms, the comprehensive nature of the Treaty and its complex verification regime help to strengthen the international legal system to prevent nuclear terrorism by providing a firm barrier against nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion. In addition, the capacity-building activities and programmes of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization contribute to strengthening subregional, regional and international cooperation in this regard.

A number of States have already brought into force the penal provisions criminalizing the act of carrying out a nuclear explosion or causing, encouraging, preparing for or in any way intentionally participating in such an explosion. Some States, at the time of ratifying the Treaty, amended their penal code with immediate effect. Others had already adopted such legislation as parties to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties.

The Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission carries out a programme of technical assistance through which it provides technical support and legal assistance to signatory States concerning the legal and administrative measures necessary for the implementation of the Treaty, including the following:

- Conducting regional, subregional or national seminars and workshops dealing in part with national implementation measures, at which States are encouraged to share experiences regarding the national implementation of the Treaty.
- Assisting signatory States in assessing technical needs and possible approaches, as well as providing comments on eventual draft legislation and support during the internal approval process.
- Maintaining a database of national implementation measures adopted by States parties, and making examples of national legislation and a survey of the texts available upon request.
- Preparing documentary information on national implementation measures, which is made available on the public website of the Preparatory Commission ([www.ctbto.org/member-states/legal-resources](http://www.ctbto.org/member-states/legal-resources)).
- Cooperating and coordinating with States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders with the objective of contributing to international efforts to strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime in all its aspects in order to prevent the acquisition of

weapons of mass destruction by anyone, including terrorists and terrorist networks.

## United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]

[10 July 2020]

### **Measures taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to promote the seven international legal instruments against terrorism dealing with the criminalization of conduct by non-State actors involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons and materials, as well as the implementation of relevant obligations under Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). Through its work in this area, UNODC has raised awareness among Member States and increased their capacity to implement these instruments at the national level.

In May 2019, in cooperation with Canada, UNODC launched an e-learning module focused on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, which is available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish at <https://golearn.unodc.org> and has already been successfully completed by more than 900 practitioners from 67 Member States.

In Vienna in May 2019, UNODC and the Office of Counter-Terrorism launched a three-year project on the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, funded by the European Union. The project included several UNODC-conducted webinars on the International Convention, which were attended by more than 230 representatives of 40 Member States, and a national visit to Uganda in March 2020, conducted jointly by UNODC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to promote the International Convention and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment.

In June 2019, UNODC held a workshop in Panama for Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on the universalization and effective implementation of the above-mentioned Conventions and Amendment. A similar event was held in Barbados in February 2020 for Caribbean Community countries. Both events were funded by Canada, as was a national workshop on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, held in the Philippines in February 2020. As a result of its outreach efforts, UNODC received several requests for follow-up national expert missions and for legislative assistance in relation to the International Convention.

As an integral element of the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization, UNODC delivered 22 training sessions on the topic of strategic trade and export control during the reporting period with a view to enabling port control and air cargo control units to strengthen abilities to detect, deter, combat and interdict chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and/or materials that may cross their national borders. In addition, UNODC contributed to multi-country, multi-agency activities to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences on the topic.

At the request of the Anti-Money-Laundering Office of Thailand, UNODC provided technical legislative advice on a 2020 draft amendment to the Counter-Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Financing Act.

During the reporting period, UNODC continued to strengthen partnerships with relevant international stakeholders. For instance, it contributed to the following IAEA activities: the International Conference on Nuclear Security, two workshops on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment, and three high-level visits of national stakeholders on nuclear security.

The Office also provided presentations at several events of the Office for Disarmament Affairs on Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and participated in several consultative meetings organized by the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

The Office participated in the plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in June 2019 and provided expertise to two Global Initiative exercises related to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, held in Morocco in December 2019 and Argentina in March 2020.

In March 2020, UNODC briefed the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Executive Council on the international legal framework against chemical terrorism.

The Office also participated in meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Nuclear Security Contact Group and the Nuclear Threat Initiative Global Dialogue on Nuclear Security Priorities, and briefed members of these forums on its work in preventing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism.

The General Assembly, in its resolution [74/175](#), requested UNODC to continue, within its mandate, to develop its specialized knowledge of the international legal framework for combating chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism as enshrined in the conventions and protocols on terrorism in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in preventing and countering those forms of terrorism, and welcomed the e-learning module developed by UNODC in that regard.

---