Input of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime into the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution 66/50, entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”

The General Assembly resolution 66/105 adopted on 9 December 2011, entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” requests the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism, and recognizes, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the most recent among them, and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building.

Six of the sixteen international legal instruments against terrorism deal, to varying extents, with chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) terrorism, namely:

- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 1980;
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, 1997;
- Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 2005 (not yet in force);
- Protocol to the Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf, 2005;

UNODC/TPB has continued to assist countries in implementing the international legal CBRN terrorism, both bilaterally and multilaterally, in accordance with its relevant mandates. The adoption in 2005 of four international legal instruments relevant to the fight against CBRN terrorism has generated an even higher need for specialized legal technical assistance services in this field. Thus, the prevention of CBRN terrorism is one of the priority areas to which UNODC/TPB is increasingly devoting its efforts.

UNODC is a member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Working Group on Weapons on Mass Destruction (WMD). UNODC participated in the Working Group’s Meeting on Interagency Coordination in the Event of a Terrorist Attack using Chemical or Biological Weapons or Materials, held in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 16-17 May and contributed to the final report.
In 2009, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) granted UNODC official observer status, highlighting that “UNODC’s commendable work in addressing issues related to counter-terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, has already had a positive impact in promoting implementation of the universal legal framework against terrorism, including the Convention on the Physical protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1540 and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism”. In 2010, UNODC took part in various GICNT activities, including in the Implementation and Assessment Group Mid-Year meeting held in Cordoba, Spain from 28 February to 3 March 3 and in the GICNT Plenary Meeting held in Daejon, Republic of Korea on 29-30 June.

UNODC/TPB continued to participate in the IAEA-led International Nuclear Security Educational Network (INSEN) meetings and, jointly with UNICRI, drafted the chapter on counter-terrorism of INSEN’s Educational Programme on Nuclear Security.

As part of its technical assistance delivery activities, UNODC/TPB conducted a national workshop on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 December.

UNODC/TPB continued to strengthen its cooperation with relevant international organizations. Some examples of activities include participation in the following events:

- Workshop to identify the proper role of the OSCE in facilitating implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 held in Vienna, Austria, on 27-28 January;
- Seminar on the OPCW’s contribution to security and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, held in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 11-12 April;
- Second Round Table Meeting of the EU/UNICRI CBRN Centres of Excellence National Focal Points, held in Bangkok, Thailand on 11 May;
- IAEA nuclear security information exchange meeting, held in Vienna, Austria, on 26-27 May;
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission Pilot Legislation Workshop held in Vienna, Austria, from 1 to 4 November.

As part of its online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform activities, UNODC/TPB conducted four live events on the international legal framework against CBRN terrorism.

UNODC/TPB continued to expand its Database of Electronic Legal Resources on International Terrorism\(^1\) to facilitate a wider reach of available technical assistance. The Database contains, inter alia, full-text versions in the six UN official languages of all international legal instruments against terrorism, including those relevant to preventing CBRN terrorism. It also offers a ratification status database updated on a monthly basis where information can be filtered by country, region, instrument and date. The national

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\(^1\) https://www.unodc.org/tldb/en/index.html
legal resources section of the Database contains legislation relevant to counterterrorism (including CBRN-related) and international cooperation from more than 190 countries, including full-text versions of Penal Codes, Codes of Penal Procedure, and Constitutions. Model laws, legislative guides, and other legal tools can also be accessed to assist national authorities in setting up the structures and adopting the legislation necessary to implement the global legal framework against terrorism.