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## Seventy-ninth session

Item 98 (v) of the preliminary list\*

### General and complete disarmament

## Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/43](#), in which the 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 and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures. As at 31 May 2024, the Secretary-General had received replies from 11 Member States and two international organizations, as well as the European Union.

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\* [A/79/50](#).



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## I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [78/43](#), 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. The Assembly encouraged cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in that regard.

3. Furthermore, the 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 and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant 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-ninth session. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

4. By a note verbale dated 8 February 2024, Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issue by 31 May 2024. Letters dated 14 February 2024 were dispatched to relevant international organizations, including relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, for the same purpose. Member States and relevant international organizations were invited to provide executive summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General, while their submissions in extenso would be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([www.disarmament.unoda.org](http://www.disarmament.unoda.org)), 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 was received and is reproduced in section III, in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution [65/276](#). Any views received after 31 May 2024 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

## II. Replies received from Governments

### Burkina Faso

[Original: French]  
[14 May 2024]

As a State Member of the United Nations, Burkina Faso supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution [78/43](#), entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”. This resolution can be seen as a crucial response to the threat posed by the possibility of terrorist groups gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, which could have devastating consequences for regional and global security.

In the area of security, Burkina Faso is faced with the threat posed by armed terrorist groups. It is important to support any initiative aimed at preventing terrorists

from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. This resolution could thus contribute to strengthening national and regional security.

Burkina Faso's support for this resolution demonstrates its commitment to disarmament, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the promotion of international stability and security, as well as its cooperation in those areas.

On the humanitarian front, this resolution helps to protect civilians from the potential threats posed by weapons of mass destruction in the event of their acquisition by terrorist groups, and to prevent humanitarian disasters.

As a State Member of the United Nations faced with domestic and regional security challenges, Burkina Faso, in conclusion, supports the implementation of resolution 78/43 because of its security concerns, its commitment to disarmament, its recognition of the importance of international cooperation and its desire to protect civilians.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]  
[29 April 2024]

Cuba has had a long-standing position of rejecting and condemning all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, by whomever, against whomever, and wherever committed and whatever the motivation, including cases in which States are directly or indirectly involved.

On a systematic basis, Cuba does not allow and has never allowed terrorist acts of any kind against any State to be carried out, planned or financed on its territory.

The country has governmental structures that work in close cooperation to prevent and deal with terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, based on a strict regulatory and institutional framework. The Comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Strategy was updated in 2022 and, under the Strategy, an inter-agency commission, chaired by the Vice-President of the Republic, was established to follow up on its implementation.

Cuba has also ratified the 19 international conventions relating to terrorism. The commitment of Cuba to combating terrorism was made a constitutional norm by including it in article 16 of the new Constitution, adopted by referendum on 24 February 2019. That article reaffirmed the firm position defended by Cuba and made it one of the principles of its foreign policy to repudiate and condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in particular State terrorism.

The Government of Cuba has continued to update the regulatory framework for combating terrorism. The legislative amendment process has introduced elements that offer better protection for citizens' rights and guarantees and make it possible to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in preventing and combating terrorism and crimes related to its financing.

Resolution 19/203, published on 7 December 2023 in the Official Gazette of the Republic, includes the list of individuals and entities that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), international law and domestic law, have been subject to criminal investigations and are wanted by the Cuban authorities because of their involvement in the promotion, planning, organization, financing, support or commission of terrorist acts in Cuba or in other countries.

The new Criminal Code, (Act No. 151), adopted by the Cuban Parliament on 15 May 2022, repeals other special criminal laws, including Act No. 93 of 20 December 2001, on counter-terrorism. This makes it possible to integrate, in a single legal norm,

the main aspects of substantive criminal law, in order to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in crime prevention and control.

Act No. 143 of 2021, on criminal procedure, which came into force on 1 January 2022, allows the country to update its legal norms while improving the procedure for investigating these acts and for international cooperation in confronting the scourge of terrorism and its financing.

Decree-Law No. 317 of 2013, on the prevention and detection of operations in efforts to combat money-laundering, the financing of terrorism, the proliferation of weapons and illicit capital flows, reinforces national measures and has been complemented and updated by Central Bank Decree-Law No. 361 of 14 September 2018.

The Criminal Code sets out penalties for all acts of terrorism, including those involving weapons of mass destruction.

Decree-Law No. 33/2021, on amending Decree-Law No. 202 (24 December 1999) on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction, approved in 2021, made it possible to include new substances to Schedule 1 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention).

Cuba strictly complies with all obligations regarding the use of controlled chemical substances. The transparency of the Cuban authorities and the ongoing cooperation with international organizations has been amply demonstrated.

National control mechanisms to ensure compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention) have been strengthened through an inspection system to verify compliance with the national laws in force. This system, which includes safeguard inspections every two years, extends to all biohazardous facilities in the country and to those that are part of the national system of accounting for and control of biological materials, equipment and technology.

Cuba neither possesses nor intends to possess weapons of mass destruction. It strongly supports their total and complete prohibition and elimination in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. This was also endorsed in the Constitution, which reaffirms that Cuba “promotes complete and general disarmament and rejects the existence, proliferation or use of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction or other weapons with similar effects, as well as the development and use of new weapons and new forms of warfare that violate international law, such as cyberwarfare”.

Cuba has a reliable and effective system for the national implementation of its international obligations as a State party to instruments such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

In Cuba, all programmes in the nuclear, chemical and biological fields have always been strictly peaceful and are aimed at the socioeconomic development of the Cuban people. All these programmes are under the permanent and rigorous control of the relevant national authorities and are subject to verification by the competent international bodies. The regulatory framework is reviewed and updated periodically to strengthen control in accordance with the recommendations and obligations derived from international agreements on these matters.

As a State party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment, Cuba strictly complies with its obligations and guarantees the physical security of its material. Cuba has no undeclared nuclear or radioactive material and uses all its declared nuclear material for peaceful activities. Cuba has an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan with the International Atomic Energy Agency and also implements the guidelines set out in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance documents.

In 2019, Cuba submitted its fifth national report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The report contained the latest information on the set of legislative, administrative and institutional measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and materials and technologies related to their manufacture. In addition, the national matrix for the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) was approved by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on 16 December 2020.

Following the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Cuba, as a State party to the Treaty, renewed its aspiration to see a “nuclear-weapon-free world” and reaffirmed that promoting the universalization of the Treaty involves preventing terrorists from acquiring such weapons.

Cuba opposes the manipulation of the so-called “fight against terrorism” for hegemonistic purposes or for promoting wars, military interventions, interference in internal affairs and violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Such manipulation is one of the main sources provoking the arms race.

Cuba is firmly committed to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, a key instrument in the international effort to combat this scourge. It also supports the central role of the United Nations General Assembly in coordinating this strategy, with the assistance of all its Member States and on the basis of respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

## El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 April 2024]

In order to comply with obligations to the United Nations, in particular with respect to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [77/75](#), entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2021, the Ministry of National Defence hereby reports the following.

At the national level, the Armed Forces are participating directly with and in support of the National Civil Police in the fight against gangs. These criminal structures have been classified as terrorist groups by the Supreme Court of Justice since 2015 and actions have been implemented through the Territorial Control Plan, such as an increase in Safe House Plan rapid response operations.

In incidence areas containing terrorist offenders, personnel presence has been increased through different joint community support groups, joint task groups and task forces and through the Trident Naval Task Force. There was also increased deployment of and control by Sumpul Command at various unauthorized border points to prevent the smuggling of arms and ammunition for these terrorist groups. Domestically, security measures were reinforced in military warehouses and during

the screening of new personnel in order to prevent suspected terrorists from infiltrating the Armed Forces.

It should be noted that El Salvador is a signatory to several international instruments. Through the Financial Investigations Unit of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, El Salvador also seeks to prevent and detect money- and asset-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the country. It should be noted that, to date, Salvadoran gangs have not been linked to international terrorist groups and there are no indications of the existence of these types of weapons in the country.

## Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]  
[30 May 2024]

Guatemala ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 26 September 2018.

## India

[Original: English]  
[24 May 2024]

The pursuit of global peace faces unprecedented challenges from terrorism, which threatens to endanger the very foundation of democratic societies. India is greatly concerned by the increasing linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and is fully cognizant of the need to urgently address this grave threat to humanity through international cooperation and within the United Nations framework.

Threats arising from terrorism transcend borders, necessitating a robust and coordinated response at the national and global levels. The international community must augment its efforts to eliminate the risks of sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of covert networks, terrorists and armed non-State actors.

Having fought the menace of terrorism for many decades, India, through the annual resolution, adopted by the General Assembly, on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, has drawn the attention of the international community to the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the potential for their exploitation by terrorists and non-State actors for hostile purposes. In the resolution, tabled since 2002 and adopted by consensus, the Assembly calls upon Member States to support international efforts and urges them to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. India is pleased that resolution 78/43 was adopted without a vote and received the support of almost 90 sponsor and co-sponsor States.

India believes that it is incumbent upon every Member State to combat terrorism, dismantle its support infrastructure and curb its linkages with weapons of mass destruction. For its part, India has a comprehensive law in its domestic legislation, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005, which effectively translates at the operational level the firm commitment of India to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. In 2022, India amended the Act to include the prohibition of financing for any activity prohibited under the Act and other relevant acts, and to enable financial and other measures to prevent such financing.

India believes that multilateral export control regimes contribute to the goal of non-proliferation through guidelines for export controls and lists of specific goods and technologies whose exports should be regulated. The national export control system of India is consistent with the highest international standards. Its national export control list of dual-use material, equipment and technologies, called “Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies”, is updated annually, in view of emerging trends and technologies.

India is a party to all 13 international instruments accepted as benchmarks for a State’s commitment to combat all forms of terrorism, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. India has also ratified 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 its Amendment.

Recognizing the role of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in preventing the risk of access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction, India engages with the Committee’s reporting and review process regarding national measures. India believes that outreach efforts under resolution 1540 (2004) to various countries and regions will also complement the implementation of the objectives of Assembly resolution 78/43. India fully supports the Committee’s enhanced cooperation and coordination with international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), other relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Security Council’s counter-terrorism committees.

India believes that government-industry partnership contributes to an effective export control system. The Government of India, along with its industry partners, engages in outreach activities comprising region-specific and sector-specific events. India actively participates across various multilateral forums, including through the United Nations, IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and other relevant forums to step up efforts and international cooperation to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. India has regularly participated in the International Conference on Nuclear Security hosted by IAEA. India also participates in the IAEA Nuclear Security Guidance Committee for the development and review of nuclear security documents and is an active participant in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Nuclear Security Contact Group. The Indian Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership conducts international training courses, workshops and technical meetings to strengthen global nuclear security.

## **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

[Original: English]  
[20 May 2024]

Combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on a non-discriminatory basis has been the long-standing policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Accordingly, Iran has always supported this resolution since its introduction in the First Committee. However, the resolution contains a reference to the so-called “Nuclear Security Summits”, a closed, selected gathering for a selective approach to nuclear security based on the assumption that the possession of nuclear weapons by a few countries should be continued and that the only major problem is how to secure the weapons and needed materials for production of such weapons.

A thorough review of the documents from these gatherings indicates that, in those documents, there is not even a single word about nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which is the only absolute guarantee against the threat posed to international peace and security by nuclear weapons.



Despite full sympathy with the thrust of the resolution, the reference to the said gatherings in the text obliged the Islamic Republic of Iran, while joining the consensus, to disassociate itself from the paragraph contained therein on the so-called Nuclear Security Summits.

We fully agree that international cooperation aimed at strengthening the security and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities contributes to preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear weapons. We believe this important issue can be best addressed within the relevant multilateral organization and in an open, comprehensive and transparent manner, with the participation of all Member States. In this context, the International Atomic Energy Agency provides the proper place for addressing this issue.

## Morocco

[Original: French]  
[26 April 2024]

Convinced that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and fully aware of the disastrous consequences that the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors or terrorists could have, Morocco supports the international community's efforts to curb this phenomenon by taking national steps and advocating participation in international cooperation initiatives.

Recognizing the need to improve national measures, strengthen international cooperation, establish and maintain effective arrangements at nuclear facilities against potential radiological risks and prevent accidents with radiological consequences, Morocco ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety in May 2019.

In 2020, Morocco adopted Act No. 42-18, which aims to set up a system for controlling exports and imports of dual-use goods by making them subject to prior authorization. The purpose is to ensure the final destination and use of these goods, guarantee their legitimate trade and prevent their deviation for military use.

The implementing regulations for this Act set out, among other things, the procedures for issuing, amending, suspending and withdrawing export and import licences for dual-use goods, and for reviewing related decisions. They also lay down the list of goods subject to controls and the documents to be attached to licence applications. The control system will come into effect in May 2024.

In addition, a commission for dual-use goods and related services has been set up to ensure effective coordination of export controls for the goods in question, by involving all government departments concerned with security and economic issues relating to export development.

In 2023, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Morocco finalized the revision and updating of its integrated national nuclear security support plan, which covers several areas relating to the legislative and regulatory framework, preventing, detecting and responding to criminal acts, such as the theft or illegal transfer of radioactive sources, and the sustainability of human and material resources. Morocco also put in place an action plan for the next three years.

Morocco hosts the regional secretariat of the African Atlantic Façade, which is linked to the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative. The secretariat is responsible for coordinating activities linked to the Initiative by working in liaison with the national focal points of the countries involved, as well as with other donors and international organizations.

Since 2016, and by virtue of Act No. 142-12, adopted in 2014, on nuclear and radiological safety and security and on the establishment of the Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security, the Agency has been the national authority responsible for licensing and controlling nuclear and radiological activities, and for establishing requirements and technical regulations relating to nuclear and radiological safety and security and safeguards.

As part of strengthening the nuclear accounting legal framework of Morocco, a draft decree is in the process of being adopted concerning the establishment of a national system of accounting for and control of nuclear materials pursuant to the comprehensive safeguards agreement and the additional protocol thereto signed between Morocco and IAEA.

In 2023, Morocco revised and updated its national action plan for reducing nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical risks.

Our country contributes to the international community's efforts against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their use by non-State actors by participating in international initiatives to promote a culture of security, and through training, practical exercises and the exchange of experience and best practices.

In this spirit, Morocco is a member of the Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative of the United States, and co-chairs the 13-country subworking group on States' incentives to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Morocco plays an active role in the Proliferation Security Initiative launched in 2003. As part of this Initiative, it hosted several activities in the form of workshops, exercises and regional meetings. The latest activity was a political meeting to promote the Initiative among African countries, co-organized by the Kingdom of Morocco and the United States of America and held in Marrakech from 31 January to 2 February 2024. The meeting was an ideal opportunity to discuss the importance of the African dimension in international cooperation efforts to tackle international and regional security challenges, as well as the importance of South-South cooperation in building national capacities to combat the financing and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials. At the end of the meeting, five African countries announced their endorsement of the Initiative, bringing the total number of member countries to 111.

## Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]  
[27 February 2024]

The Republic of Nicaragua condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and supports rules and regulations to combat its financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity reaffirms its position and political will to contribute to global efforts against this scourge as a contribution to international peace and security, including all necessary measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Article 5 of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua enshrines the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, Nicaragua does not produce, stockpile, transfer or use this type of weapon or its precursors or delivery systems.

In the light of the constitutional principles and supreme interests of the nation for the maintenance of peace and national security and in accordance with Act No. 919, on sovereign security, which considers international terrorism and any act

of financing terrorist actions and organizations a threat to sovereign security, the foreign policy guidelines of the Government of Nicaragua have been in favour of a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

Nicaragua is a State party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism; the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco); the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its annexes; and the Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Republic of Nicaragua and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its annexes.

In 2023, Nicaragua remained committed to international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In this regard, Nicaragua has ratified the laws and regulations reported in 2022, which have been harmonized with international standards and treaty commitments. These include:

- Special Act No. 510, on the control and regulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials
- Act No. 641, containing the Criminal Code
- Act No. 977, on combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its implementing regulations (Decree No. 15-2018)
- Decree No. 17-2014, on the implementation of measures to freeze funds and assets connected with terrorism and the financing of terrorism
- Resolutions for non-compliance with:
  - Decree No. 15-2018, on regulations for the prevention, detection and reporting of activities related to money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through non-financial activities and professions;
  - Decree No. 17-2014, on the implementations of measures to freeze funds and assets connected with terrorism and the financing of terrorism.

Nicaragua firmly supports bilateral, regional and international agreements that contribute to global efforts against terrorism and for general and complete disarmament, having as a principle the struggle for peace and the establishment of a just international order.

## **Qatar**

[Original: Arabic]  
[28 May 2024]

In furtherance of the efforts of the State of Qatar mentioned in the previous report of the Secretary-General on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction ([A/68/164](#)) of 19 July 2013, the State of Qatar continues to strengthen its efforts at the national level to address the various practices used by terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction. To that end, the following measures have been taken:

The State of Qatar has acceded to the following global counter-terrorism agreements:

- It acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism by Decree No. 20 (2018).
- It acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings by Decree No. 21 (2018).
- It ratified the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism by Decree No. 42 (2014).
- It acceded to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation by Decree No. 63 (2017).
- It acceded to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation by Decree No. 38 (2014).
- It acceded to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf by Decree No. 39 (2014).
- It ratified the 2014 Protocol amending the 1963 Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft by Decree No. 71 (2020).

The State of Qatar has ratified the following international treaties on combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction:

- It ratified the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by Decree No. 38 (1979).
- It ratified the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention by Decree No. 32 (2001).
- It ratified the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention by Decree No. 58 (2003).
- It ratified the 1999 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by Decree No. 54 (1999).
- It acceded to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident on 4 November 2005.
- It acceded to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency on 4 November 2005.
- It acceded to the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material by Decree No. 123 (2004).
- It ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material on 11 November 2014.

The acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction has been criminalized and effective, proportionate and deterrent penalties have been put in place as follows:

- Articles 5, 7, and 9 of the Counter-Terrorism Act, No. 27 (2019).

Preventive measures have been reinforced by comprehensive application of a targeted financial sanctions regime to prevent the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The necessary legislative, regulatory and operational foundation has been laid to comply with Financial Action Task Force recommendations 6 and 7 and immediate outcomes 10 and 11 on the effectiveness of counter-terrorism regimes, as follows:

- Articles 28–42 of the Counter-Terrorism Act, No. 27 (2019).

- The Public Prosecutor issued Decisions Nos. 1 (2020) and 59 (2020) concerning effective implementation of the targeted financial sanctions system in the State.
- The National Counter-Terrorism Committee has been designated the national entity responsible for coordinating implementation of the targeted financial sanctions regime and providing it with all the necessary resources and logistical means to carry out its tasks.

Control measures and periodic inspections have been stepped up for prohibited and controlled dual-use items and other items that could be used as precursors in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The following legislative, regulatory and institutional implementation mechanisms have been set forth:

- Legislative mechanisms
  - (a) Act No. 3 (2018) on a national system for inventory and control of nuclear materials;
  - (b) Act No. 4 (2016) on biological weapons;
  - (c) Act No. 16 (2013) on chemical weapons;
  - (d) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Decision No. 11 (2019) issuing implementing regulations for Act No. 16 (2013) on chemical weapons.

- Institutional and structural mechanisms

The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, the General Customs Authority and the National Committee on Explosives have been designated the main national entities concerned with cooperating to implement relevant measures in accordance with their respective legal mandates, with a view to ensuring that policies and controls adopted at the national level are consistent with international standards and best practices are followed to control the movement of persons and goods through the country's entry points.

The national strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism and prevent the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction for the 2020–2025 period was adopted by decision of the Cabinet at its 25th regular meeting of 2022 on 29 June 2022. Addressing the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists was identified as a special action item, action item 1.22 under sub-goal 4, under the strategy's first main strategic objective. Implementation of this action item is to be carried out through the development of action plans that include detailed procedures for implementation by the relevant national authorities according to their mandates in coordination with the National Counter-Terrorism Committee as the official national authority involved in setting forth the strategy and following up its implementation.

The following capacity-building and training has been conducted:

#### The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons

- The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons holds awareness and training programmes on the conventions on weapons of mass destruction for all stakeholders.
- The Committee has hosted numerous conferences, workshops and training courses – averaging 10 events per year – through the Doha Regional Centre for Training on Conventions on Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- The training programmes covered responding to emergency events during major events such as preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup held in Qatar, as well

as such topics as cooperation and coordination with international disarmament and counter-terrorism organizations to train national teams on biological, chemical and nuclear security. The programmes included the following:

- (a) A biological security programme through the Biosafe project of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Secretariat and the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Doha;
- (b) A nuclear security and radiological emergency preparedness and response programme in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- (c) A chemical security programme in cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

#### The General Customs Authority

- The Customs Training Centre has been approved by the World Customs Organization (WCO) as a regional training centre in Qatar for capacity-building and increasing the efficiency of customs departments. The Centre has coordinated with WCO to hold a regional workshop in Doha to train trainers in the Global Shield Programme to control chemical precursors and substances that can be used in the manufacture of explosives.
- The training covers identification of dual-use materials for weapons of mass destruction; prohibited and restricted goods and other harmful goods and materials; inspection of goods, means of transportation, and passengers; explosives and drugs of all kinds; handling hazardous and radioactive substances; risk management; training on X-ray equipment and image analysis; customs investigations; and combating forgery and counterfeiting.
- Hundreds of employees have benefited from training programmes on combating the financing of terrorism and control procedures for dual-use goods.

### Republic of Moldova

[Original: English]  
[29 May 2024]

The Republic of Moldova reiterates its commitment to contributing to international efforts in preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The national authorities consistently develop and improve national legal instruments in order to comply with the international legal framework and with the requirements of Security Council resolutions directed towards investigating and criminalizing offences related to terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In this regard, the national legal framework in force consists of the following provisions:

- Article 140<sup>1</sup>, paragraph (1), of Law No. 985/2002 (the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova) criminalizes the use, development, manufacture, acquisition, processing, storage or preservation, direct or indirect transfer, possession and transportation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, nuclear explosive devices and other weapons of mass destruction that violate the provisions of national legislation or of international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is party.
- Article 279<sup>1</sup>, paragraph (2) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova criminalizes training for terrorist purposes, i.e. providing instructions regarding

the manufacture or use of explosive devices or substances, weapons of mass destruction, radioactive devices or materials, firearms or other weapons, or harmful or hazardous substances, or other specific methods or techniques, with the intent or knowledge that the training is provided for the purpose of contributing to perpetrating one or more terrorism-related crimes.

- Article 279<sup>1</sup>, paragraph (21) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova criminalizes self-training or receiving terrorism-related training, i.e. acquiring knowledge and practical skills on the manufacture or use of explosive devices or substances, weapons of mass destruction, radioactive devices or materials, firearms or other weapons, or harmful or hazardous substances, or other specific methods or techniques that could contribute to perpetrating one or more terrorism-related crimes.

The legal framework of the Republic of Moldova also contains specific provisions aimed at ensuring compliance by the national authorities with their international obligations. In this regard, in 2023, a new law on the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova (Law No. 136/2023) was adopted. In particular, pursuant to article 3, paragraph 2 of Law No. 136/2023 and article 4, paragraph 2 (i), of Law No. 618/1995 on State security, the Service, having the aim of ensuring state security, will organize and perform activities to identify, mitigate and counter vulnerabilities, risk factors and threats against the security of the Republic of Moldova, and will elaborate and carry out, within the framework of its competencies, a system of measures aimed at identifying, preventing and countering the theft, smuggling, production, use, transportation or illegal possession of weapons; ammunitions; combat equipment; explosives; radioactive, poisonous or toxic substances; drugs; and strategic goods, if such actions harm the interests of ensuring State security.

Another important legal tool is article 34 of Law No. 308/2017 on preventing and countering money-laundering and terrorism financing, which stipulates the implementation of financial sanctions related to terrorist activities and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In 2023, an additional legal tool was adopted: Government Decision No. 935/2023 on the regulation regarding the procedure for implementing financial sanctions related to terrorist activity and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

On aspects concerning the dual use of materials related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the act in force is Law No. 1163/2000 regarding control of the export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods. Article 4 (c) stipulates that control of the export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods is exercised according to the principle of respect for international commitments regarding non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other strategic goods used for military purposes.

At the same time, the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova is part of the mechanism for first response to nuclear or radiological events linked to orphan radioactive sources, stipulated by the Government Decision No. 506/2020 on the approval of the regulation on mechanism for first response to nuclear or radiological events linked to orphan radioactive sources.

## Serbia

[Original: English]  
[30 May 2024]

Owing to technological and information developments, weapons of mass destruction present a serious transnational security threat. The most significant trends

that have affected international security and the possible proliferation of these weapons in the past few years include a considerable increase in global and regional geopolitical rivalries; a large number of armed conflicts around the world; the chronic crisis of the arms control system; and the activities of various non-State actors and terrorist groups.

Terrorism, as a global security challenge, presents a threat to security, democratic values and the rights and freedoms of citizens the world over, while the threat of terrorism recognizes no borders. That threat should be addressed at both the national and international levels.

An efficient national export control system is one response. It should be multipronged: national legislation based on international standards and rules; control lists harmonized with the lists of the international export control regime; cooperation at the national and international levels; outreach to the industry and all relevant stakeholders; and the establishment of a sanctions system. Establishment of an information-sharing system among all stakeholders based on the exchange of documentation on end uses and end users; exchange of national experiences and practices on control of end uses and end users; measures to address diversion; sharing of national points of contact to assist with authentication and verification of documentation of end uses and end users; and post-delivery cooperation should be efficient measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

The Armed Forces of Serbia do not possess weapons of mass destruction, do not develop capabilities for such weapons and do not plan to use them. The Armed Forces of Serbia continue to monitor developments, assess threats and take protective measures against the potential use and misuse of such weapons.

In addition, under the provisions of articles 5 and 6 of the law on the military security agency and the military intelligence agency, the military security agency detects, monitors and prevents internal and international terrorism, extremism and other forms of organized violence directed against the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Serbia.

### **III. Reply received from the European Union**

#### **European Union**

[Original: English]  
[27 May 2024]

The European Union remains strongly committed to preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear, chemical, biological and missile materials, technical know-how and technology. This commitment is based on the European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy, the European Union Global Strategy (2016), the European Security Strategy (2003), the European Union Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2003), the counter-terrorism agenda for the European Union (2020), the European Union Strategic Compass for Security and Defence (2022) and the New Lines for Action by the European Union in Combating the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their delivery systems (2008, 2013). The European Union and its member States apply comprehensive export controls and implement stringently Security Council resolutions [1540 \(2004\)](#), [2325 \(2016\)](#), [1887 \(2009\)](#) and [1977 \(2011\)](#). All European Union agreements with third countries contain a clause on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

While States bear the prime responsibility for nuclear security, international cooperation helps to strengthen it. Throughout 2023, 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.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of Counter-Terrorism continued implementing Council Decision 2018/1939 on union support for the universalization and effective implementation of the Convention until its expiry on 30 June 2023. In the meantime, as a follow-on action, Council Decision 2023/1187 was adopted on 19 June 2023, aimed at increasing the number of adherents to the Convention; improving national capacities to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases in which the Convention is of relevance; improving knowledge and understanding of the threat of radiological and nuclear terrorism; enhancing policies, practices and procedures to prevent, detect and respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism; and enhancing international cooperation on the matter.

The European Union contributed to the implementation of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2022–2025 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nuclear Security Plan through Council Decision 2020/1656, which funds IAEA activities towards a number of goals related to nuclear security, including the universalization of international non-proliferation and nuclear security instruments; enhancing nuclear security culture; development of information management with a focus on assessing nuclear security needs, priorities and threats; supporting nuclear security of materials and associated facilities; supporting nuclear security of materials out of regulatory control; contributing to education and training programme development; and supporting gender-focused capacity-building and education in nuclear security. Given the expiry of Council Decision 2020/1656 in March 2024, the follow-on Council Decision 2024/656 was adopted by the Council on 19 February 2024.

The European Union continued to support the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and its mission to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect and respond to nuclear terrorism. The European Union and its member States are actively involved in the work of the Global Initiative in all areas: nuclear detection, nuclear forensics, and response and mitigation.

The European Union Nuclear Security Training Centre for detection and response to illicit acts with nuclear and other radioactive materials has operated since 2013 for the benefit of European Union member States and partner countries, among them several Global Initiative members. The Centre also organizes exercises on countering nuclear smuggling. The Centre is active in addressing the training needs of European Union member States and partners, including coordinated trainings for customs and law enforcement officers. Upon request by European Union member States, it also provides assessment of equipment performance.

The European Commission and European Union member States continued their nuclear forensics activities on the basic characterization of intercepted nuclear material, using an advanced nuclear forensic investigation. Overall, nuclear materials detected and seized in more than 50 incidents have been examined, thus providing support to competent authorities in European Union member States and beyond.

The European Union and its Member States have been at the forefront of international efforts to bring into existence a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and continue to call for immediate commencement and early conclusion of such negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, on the basis of document [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein.

The European Union continued its firm support for the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) fact-finding mission and the Investigation and Identification Team in investigating reports of chemical weapons use in Syria, as well as the Declaration Assessment Team in seeking to verify Syria's initial declaration on its chemical weapons. The European Council adopted Decision 2023/1344 in support of enhancing the operational effectiveness of OPCW for the period 2023–2026 in order to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons.

The first-ever OPCW table-top exercise on chemical terrorism was held on 20 and 21 November 2023. Organized by the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology under the auspices of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism of the OPCW Executive Council, the exercise brought together 48 participants from 24 States parties across all regions. The exercise was financed by a European Union voluntary financial contribution.

On 9 October 2023, the European Union extended, by Council Decision 2023/2129, its regime of restrictive measures to address the use and proliferation of chemical weapons for an additional 12 months.

The European Union continued its strong political and financial support for the full and effective implementation and universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction. The implementation of the fifth consecutive Council Decision in support of the Convention continued. Council Decision 2019/97 of 21 January 2019 provided for a budget of €3 million to the Office for Disarmament Affairs for the period 2019–2024, allowing the Convention implementation support unit to facilitate six new projects in support of universalization; capacity-building; fostering biosecurity in the global south; developing tools for outreach, education and engagement; and increasing preparedness to respond to biological attacks. Council Decision 2019/97 also supported the Convention's intersessional programme and the preparation of the ninth Review Conference in 2022. In addition, the implementation of Council Decision 2021/2072 in support of building resilience in biosafety and biosecurity through the Convention continued, providing an additional €2 million for projects enhancing biosecurity, in particular in Africa. Following the expiration of Council Decision 2019/97, the European Union supports the implementation and universalization of the Convention through a follow-on action under Council Decision 2024/349 of 16 January 2024.

In its statements at the ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, the European Union reaffirmed its strong support to the Convention as a key pillar of the rules-based international system and recalled its long-standing efforts to strengthen the Convention, promote its universalization and enhance its implementation. The European Union is actively engaged in the work of the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention established by the Review Conference. Priorities in this context include establishing a science and technology review mechanism; enhancing national implementation and establishing a compliance and verification mechanism while continuing to promote confidence-building measures and transparency; promoting international cooperation and assistance; operationalizing article V consultative provisions and article VII provisions on assistance, response and preparedness; promoting universal adherence to the Convention; and promoting gender equality as an important cross-cutting priority.

The European Union is a staunch and long-standing supporter of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons. This independent instrument is a critical component of the international

non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, providing a mechanism for impartial investigations.

The implementation of Council Decision 2019/1296 of 31 July 2019 in support of strengthening biological safety and security in Ukraine in line with the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery continued, providing for €1.9 million in support over three years. With the Decision, the European Union aims to strengthen biological safety and security in Ukraine by improving Ukraine's legislative and regulatory basis and its human and animal health systems.

The implementation of Council Decision 2019/2108 of 9 December 2019 in support of strengthening biological safety and security in Latin America in line with the continued implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) continued. The decision provided for €2.7 million over three years. With the Decision, the European Union aimed to strengthen biological safety and security in beneficiary countries by improving their legislative and regulatory basis and by raising awareness among relevant sectors. Following the expiration of Council Decision 2019/2108 in February 2024, the European Union has supported the strengthening of biological safety and security in Latin America through follow-on action under Council Decision 2024/645 of 19 February 2024.

In June 2022 in New York, the European Union actively participated in the open consultations on the comprehensive review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which led to the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2663 (2022). The implementation of Council Decision 2017/809, with a budget of €2.7 million in support of the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), continued until February 2023. On 20 March 2023, a new decision was adopted, Council Decision 2023/654, providing an additional €2.6 million in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

As a member of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction led by the Group of Seven, the European Union, through its Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence initiative, provides support for capacity-building and training to 64 partner countries grouped around eight regional secretariats: the African Atlantic Façade, Central Asia, Eastern and Central Africa, the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel, South East Asia, and South-East and Eastern Europe.

The initiative is financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument 2021–2027 and is aimed at mitigating risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, strengthening partner countries' preparedness and nurturing security culture and governance. Participating countries are supported in their efforts to establish national and regional coordination and governance structures to develop and reinforce national chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear policies and build capacities. Since 2010, more than 100 regional projects have been funded. The budget for the initiative is an estimated €140 million for the period 2021–2027 (€300 million in total since 2010).

The Centres of Excellence network is now well developed and has allowed the European Union to undertake training table-top and field cross-border exercises on related matters, in order to enhance visibility and concretely assess their impact. Regional chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear action plans have started to be developed, as has interregional cooperation. Moreover, the initiative supports further actions addressing security governance issues related to cybercrime, terrorism, critical infrastructure, falsified medicines, hybrid threats and explosives,

and to further develop cooperation on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear forensics, border control and export control of dual-use items.

Currently the European Union is developing a guidebook for the prosecution of radiological and nuclear crimes that will be translated into several languages and distributed to all countries. An associated in-depth training package will also be developed and delivered. A similar guidebook and training package on prosecution of chemical and biological crimes is already available.

Under the framework of the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine, the European Union Joint Research Centre and in collaboration with the United States Department of Energy and the Kyiv Institute for Nuclear Research, developed nuclear security education and training activities for participants from Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova to enhance nuclear security in the Black Sea region and supported the implementation of three nuclear security-related projects in Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova.

The 2017 action plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks, reviewed at the end of 2019, remains valid and provides a general policy framework in the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear area at the European Union level. The current action plan introduced a wide range of measures to improve preparedness, resilience and coordination at the European Union level. The Commission continued its engagement with detection equipment manufacturers in order to see how these substances could be better detected. In addition, the pandemic drew the attention of policymakers to biological threats. A biosecurity toolbox was created by a consortium of member States authorities, which provides responsible national authorities with a large number of instruments to better address this issue.

The European Union is a long-standing supporter of the implementation and efficient functioning of and of universal adherence to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Since 2008, the European Union has financed a series of consecutive projects in support of the Hague Code of Conduct with a focus on the universalization and effective implementation of the Code of Conduct, consisting of outreach and “inreach” activities focused on the implementation of the Hague Code of Conduct. These activities are carried out by the Paris-based Fondation pour la recherche stratégique, frequently also involving the rotating chairpersonship of the Hague Code of Conduct and the Immediate Central Contact. In January 2023, the European Union adopted Council Decision 2023/124, which continues European Union support to the Hague Code of Conduct through Fondation pour la recherche stratégique for an additional three years.

The European Union also works to strengthen multinational efforts to stop proliferation related trade in weapons of mass destruction, related materials and delivery systems by promoting adherence to the principles of the Proliferation Security Initiative.

By implementing the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and Australia Group export control lists, the European Union contributes to preventing the access of terrorist networks to weapons of mass destruction and related technology and deters their efforts to develop such kinds of weapons.

The European Union continued to participate actively in the meetings of the Group of Seven Non-proliferation Directors Group. In 2023, the European Union participated in the meetings under the presidency of Japan.

The European Union supports other multilateral efforts, such as the Nuclear Security Contact Group, in our common interest to ensure worldwide commitment to

nuclear security best practices in order to prevent terrorists from acquiring nuclear weapons or materials.

In its bilateral relations with third countries and regional organizations, the European Union aims to strengthen the global non-proliferation infrastructure, enhance chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security and contribute to the prevention of acts of terrorism. Work towards these goals has been continued with partners. Non-proliferation, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security and counter-terrorism measures were also integral parts of dialogue with third countries.

The overall objective of the European Union Partner to Partner Export Control Programme is to contribute to the establishment, consolidation and updating of effective strategic trade control systems for both military and dual-use goods by offering a long-term perspective for cooperation and the mutual economic benefits of convergence of export controls. The European Union Partner to Partner portal (<https://export-control.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>) continued to serve as a platform for all European Union outreach programmes on export control of military and dual-use goods.

The pillar of the European Union Partner to Partner Export Control Programme dedicated to dual-use items and technologies is aimed at cooperation with strategic partners to jointly enhance the effectiveness of dual-use trade control systems worldwide by sharing experiences and best practices and supporting compliance with international obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and, most notably, resolution 1540 (2004). The pillar is financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument 2021–2027.

The European Union fully supports existing multilateral export control regimes. It stresses their crucial role in the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in the implementation of Security Council embargoes and in the promotion of transparency and greater responsibility. Export control regimes are based on public control lists and provide clear guidelines, which gives the exporting states necessary assurances to export sensitive products to trusted recipients. In that sense, they facilitate trade by building trust.

As acknowledged in the twentieth progress report towards an effective and genuine security union, the European Union has worked to counter terrorism by closing down the space in which terrorists operate, with new rules that make it harder for them to access explosives, firearms and financing and that restrict their movements. European Union support has helped to make cities more resilient against attacks, with action plans to support the protection of public spaces and to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks. The European Union has addressed cybersecurity and cyberenabled threats, by putting in place a new European Union cybersecurity strategy, adopting relevant legislation and publishing the European Democracy Action Plan to tackle disinformation and better protect the electoral process. Cooperation on the cybersecurity of fifth generation mobile services (5G) networks across Europe has been reinforced, in particular through the European Union Risk Assessment Report published on 9 October 2019. The European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation set up on 1 September 2019 a European Judicial Counter Terrorism Register to gather judicial information to establish links in proceedings against those suspected of terrorist offences with potential cross-border implications.

## IV. Replies received from international organizations

### Commonwealth of Independent States

[Original: Russian]

[19 April 2024]

The States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are working systematically to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture. Joint measures are carried out in that regard, with due consideration for the leading role of the United Nations and the development of cooperation with other international institutions and specialized bodies. Commonwealth countries regularly submit relevant information on measures being taken to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

The regulatory and legal system established in CIS is being steadily improved to take into account the changing situation and threats, including the possible acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

For example, a treaty on countering the legalization (laundering) of the proceeds of crime, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted on 15 October 2021, entered into force in 2023.

The treaty is aimed at strengthening international cooperation and expanding mutual assistance in this area, and at depriving criminals of the proceeds of crime and other means used to commit crimes. To implement the treaty, the parties are cooperating in the harmonization of legislation; the provision of legal assistance, including the seizure, freezing and confiscation of funds; information exchange; investigative activities; and the recognition of lists of individuals, entities, groups and organizations involved in terrorist activities and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In the course of implementing the programme of cooperation among the CIS member States in combating terrorism and extremism for 2023–2025, approved by a decision of the CIS Council of Heads of State on 14 October 2022, organizational and practical measures have been taken for the following purposes:

- To prevent, detect and suppress the activities of individuals and legal entities that provide assistance to terrorist and extremist organizations by replenishing and improving their logistical base and through channels and sources of resource support for terrorism and extremism
- To prevent, detect and suppress illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices; potent, chemical, biological and poisonous substances; nuclear materials and radioactive substances; and other items, instruments and means of committing terrorist and extremist crimes in the territories of CIS member States
- To ensure the security of transport facilities and fuel and energy facilities and their infrastructure from terrorist and extremist threats

The Anti-Terrorism Centre of the CIS member States coordinated joint counter-terrorism exercises entitled “Eurasia-Antiterror-2023”, during which the coordination of security agencies, special services and law enforcement bodies was fine-tuned to detect and suppress plans to carry out terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure facilities and densely populated areas.

Systematic efforts continue to be made to improve the exchange of information related to security and law and order among States, in particular with regard to

preventing crime in the territories of the CIS member States, and to develop automated databases that could help to detect and expose cross-border crimes and to detain individuals for whom an international arrest warrant has been issued.

There is no information pointing to the production or acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction or their components, or regarding their access to technologies for their manufacture, in the CIS region.

## United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]

[30 May 2024]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in accordance with its mandate, conferred by the General Assembly most recently in its resolution [78/226](#), promotes the universalization and effective implementation of seven international legal instruments against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. The effective incorporation of those instruments into the national legislation of States parties may also contribute to the fulfilment of certain obligations set forth by Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). Through its work, which is conducted mainly within the framework of projects funded by Canada and the European Union, UNODC raises Member States' awareness of these instruments and strengthens their capacity to implement them.

In 2023, UNODC carried out a range of activities, including three regional workshops for criminal justice officials for South-Eastern European, Pacific and South-East Asian countries, respectively, to strengthen their capacities to effectively implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

UNODC co-organized a table-top exercise on effective regional and international cooperation mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting radiological and nuclear crimes.

UNODC also carried out national workshops and country visits on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Maldives, Mauritius, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe.

In Vienna and New York, UNODC, in cooperation with the European Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism, launched the new European Union project on supporting the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. To ensure the sustainability of previous efforts, UNODC held four regional online workshops, targeting English-speaking and French-speaking African countries, Pacific countries, and South-East Asian countries not yet party to the Convention.

UNODC also held a national seminar on the Convention in Montenegro, the first in a series for the judicial and prosecution training centres of States parties.

On the margins of the sixty-seventh General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNODC and IAEA held a side event on the role of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in strengthening nuclear security globally.

UNODC disseminated resources related to the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and chemical terrorism (including eLearning modules, training manuals and fact sheets), available in the six United

Nations official languages (some also available in Portuguese), which were featured on the UNODC website dedicated to the Convention. UNODC continued to collect and publish the national laws of States parties' giving effect to the criminalization provisions of the Convention and developed a repository of national laws implementing the criminalization provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

UNODC continued to cooperate and strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders and contributed to events organized by other United Nations entities, international organizations, civil society and other initiatives.

### **Countering the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**

UNODC continued to provide capacity-building training on countering the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by:

- Delivering four-day inter-agency training courses on how to detect, investigate, analyse and disrupt proliferation financing in Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Papua New Guinea and Türkiye throughout 2023.
- Conducting, in cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force, a regional workshop to raise awareness of issues related to proliferation financing, including challenges and best practices in conducting investigations related to proliferation financing.
- Conducting, in cooperation with the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism, a two-day webinar to assist the Committee's members in understanding the international legal framework and international standards on countering proliferation financing.
- Hosting two expert group meetings in Vienna on disrupting proliferation financing, where representatives of national agencies involved in the investigation and enforcement of countering proliferation financing mechanisms exchanged information relevant to proliferation financing cases and shared best practices to counter proliferation financing risks.