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General and complete disarmament

Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/58](#), 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 [75/58](#), the General Assembly 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, 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 Assembly at its seventy-sixth session. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

4. By a note verbale dated 18 February 2021, Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issue. Letters dated 19 February 2021 were dispatched to relevant international organizations, including relevant bodies and 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), 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 resolution [65/276](#). Any views received after 31 May 2020 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

Albania

[Original: English]
[31 May 2021]

Albania is committed to international peace and stability and is determined to combat terrorism and to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

The Republic of Albania does not possess any weapons of mass destruction, nor will it develop or support any activity that leads to their dissemination, but it will contribute with all capacities to the establishment and improvement of national interoperable mechanisms with international ones, as well as an efficient and undivided system for preventing, stopping and controlling actions related to the

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It has in place a national strategy against the proliferation of mass destruction weapons approved by the Council of Ministers as Decision No. 33, dated 22 January 2020.

This national strategy outlines the overall framework of the measures, mechanisms and actions that the Republic of Albania will undertake to counter weapons of mass destruction.

Regarding participation in international dual-use control regimes, Albania, through the State Export Control Authority, has initiated internal procedures for assessing possible engagement in the Wassenaar Arrangement. The assessment was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as all other institutions that will be part of this process. During the prior assessment conducted by the Ministry of Defence, the Export Control Authority and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs concluded that Albania complied fully with set application criteria.

However, the process of documenting the fulfilment of the application criteria and preparing the application file requires time, given that an exhaustive list of elements for each criterion should be submitted that includes information regarding the legislative framework, policies, technical issues and statistics.

The Ministry of Defence and the Albanian State Export Control Authority is working on this process and is gathering all the information from all the institutions involved.

In addition, Albania is part of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, which was launched in 2010. This Initiative mirrors the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Action Plan implemented inside the European Union. The main objective of the Centres of Excellence Initiative is to facilitate regional cooperation in order to enhance chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation capabilities.

The Republic of Albania has in place an effective export control system for military items and dual-use goods and technologies. The system is composed of an extensive legislative framework and institutions in charge of implementation.

The international transfer of controlled goods is built on the following principles:

- Obligation to observe the international commitments made by the Republic of Albania to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and to ensure State control over international transfer of goods designed for military purposes, and dual-use items, as well as to prevent these goods from being used for terrorist acts and other illegal purposes.
- Harmonization of State export control procedures and regulations with international legal norms and practices.
- Ensuring interaction with international organizations and foreign countries in the State export control area so as to reinforce international security and stability, including non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the system for their proliferation.

The legislative framework is as follows:

- Law No. 9092 of 3 July 2003 on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- Law No. 46/2018 of 23 July 2018 on the international transfer of dual-use goods and military items. The law is aligned in part with European Union Council

Regulation No. 428/2009 of 5 May 2009, which set up a community regime for the control of exports and the transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items.

The following legal acts were approved for the implementation of Law No. 46/2018 of 23 July 2018:

- Council of Ministers Decision No. 91 of 27 February 2019 on approving the list of dual-use goods and technologies and military items. The Decision aims at fulfilling the obligation of article 10 of the Law, as a result of which the lists were transposed to the European Union dual-use list of 2017 as well as the European Union military list of 2018.
- Council of Ministers Decision No. 31 of 22 January 2020 on the organization, functioning and status of the Albanian State Export Control Authority, defining procedures of inter-institutional coordination and procedures of issuing documents of guarantee and state control. This Decision aims at fulfilling the obligation of article 9 of Law No. 46/2018, which stipulates the structure and duties of the licensing authority (the Albanian State Export Control Authority) and inter-institutional cooperation.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2021]

Preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is a common objective of all States Members of the United Nations and is thus a priority for the Government of Colombia.

Accordingly, in June 2020, the action plan for the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) was approved and sent to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The plan includes nine activities related to institutional, regulatory and operational matters, training, international cooperation and civil society.

In addition, with a view to enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and in due accordance with resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), Colombia has joined a project entitled “Strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in Latin America in accordance with resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#)”, led by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States.

Colombia has also adopted measures to prevent, detect, investigate and punish the financing of terrorism and proliferation, and has criminalized various offences related to terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction under Colombian criminal law. This includes, in particular, article 144 of the Criminal Code, on acts of terrorism, and article 343 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes terrorism and the most common related offences.

Lastly, in the context of the international conventions that promote disarmament and non-proliferation as a tool for combating terrorism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to prepare annual training for first responders from the Latin American and Caribbean region for incidents involving chemicals. The most recent event, a basic virtual course for first responders in the Latin American and Caribbean region on the detection, sampling and identification of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, was held from 1 to 5 March 2020, and 38 officials from various countries in the region took part.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

[14 May 2021]

Cuba neither possesses nor intends to acquire weapons of mass destruction. It strongly supports their total and complete prohibition and elimination in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner, within timelines agreed multilaterally.

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. It 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.

The foreign policy principles set out by the Republic of Cuba in its Constitution, promulgated on 24 February 2019, include promoting general and complete disarmament and rejecting the existence, proliferation or use of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction or other arms with similar effects, as well as the development and use of new weapons and new forms of warfare, such as cyberwarfare, which violate international law.

Cuba has an effective, predictable and reliable system for the national implementation of its 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 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the conventions on chemical and biological weapons. Following the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the States parties renewed their aspiration to see a “nuclear-weapon-free world” and reaffirmed that, promoting the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons prevents terrorists from acquiring such weapons.

Cuba has ratified the 19 international conventions relating to terrorism. 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, reinforce the national measures. The Criminal Code sets out penalties for all acts of terrorism, including those that involve weapons of mass destruction.

Cuba implements the guidelines of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 8 September 2003, and its supplementary guidance documents. It signed the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan with IAEA to strengthen controls at ports, airports, hospitals and other institutions that work with radioactive materials.

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.

India

[Original: English]
[18 May 2021]

India condemns terrorism in all its forms and is cognizant of the major challenges that arise from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to terrorists and non-State actors. Conscious of the need for enhanced international cooperation to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, India has been, since 2002, drawing the attention of the world towards these threats through its annual resolution in the General Assembly entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”. India expresses satisfaction that resolution [75/58](#) was co-sponsored by more than 75 Member States and adopted by the Assembly without a vote.

Having faced the scourge of terrorism for several decades, India is deeply aware of the growing threats of terrorism and the catastrophic consequences of the transfer of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors and terrorists, and staunchly supports global efforts for preventing the proliferation of such weapons. Tackling the threat of terrorism, which transcends borders, necessitates a coordinated response at the national and global levels. It is the primary responsibility of the international community to work together to eliminate the risk that sensitive materials and technologies will fall into the hands of covert networks, terrorists and non-State actors. It is also incumbent on every United Nations Member State to combat terrorism, dismantle its support infrastructure and curb its linkages with weapons of mass destruction.

In this context, India has adopted several measures to prohibit access to weapons of mass destruction by terrorists and non-State actors. This commitment to strengthen international efforts to prevent non-State actors and terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery led to the enactment of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2005, which provides a robust and integrated framework for prohibiting unlawful activities in relation to weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials, equipment and technologies.

The growing commercialization of dual-use applications have lowered technical and material barriers to the proliferation and weaponization of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to clandestine actors. Consistent with the highest international standards, India has established a rigorous and effective export control system based on legislation, regulations and a control list of sensitive materials, dual-use items, equipment and technologies. India believes that multilateral export control regimes contribute to the goals of non-proliferation through guidelines for export controls and lists of specific goods and technologies whose exports should be regulated. India is a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group and has been actively contributing to the efforts of these export control regimes. The country’s national export control list of dual-use material, equipment and technologies, called “Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies”, is updated annually to harmonize it with the latest guidelines and control lists of the four multilateral export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group, even though India is not a member of the Group.

India is a party to all the 13 international instruments accepted as benchmarks for a State’s commitments 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 Nuclear Facilities

and its Amendment, which provide an effective framework 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 resolve to fight terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Government of India, along with its industry partners, has remained engaged in outreach activities as an integral part of the implementation of the export control system. In 2020, these included a programme on export controls for the nuclear sector, a workshop on export controls for the eastern region and three region-specific e-workshops on export controls with a focus on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and startups. A webinar for materials and related sectors, and the fourth National Conference on Export Controls, in a virtual setting, were held in February and March 2021.

India has always supported 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 regularly participated in the International Conferences on Nuclear Security hosted by IAEA, including the recent one 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 steadfastly committed to contributing 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 this context.

The country’s Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, established in April 2017, has conducted over 29 international programmes, including training courses, workshops and technical meetings, drawing some 400 participants from roughly 50 Member States. The Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership has also signed 12 memorandums of understanding with various countries and organizations, including the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, IAEA and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, for the strengthening of global nuclear security.

Under the OPCW National Authority Mentorship/Partnership Programme, India is engaged with Afghan authorities to share its knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Montenegro

[Original: English]
[31 March 2021]

In line with its foreign politics priorities and as a reliable member State of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Montenegro is most firmly committed to safeguarding international peace and security and combating organized crime, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We have established an appropriate legal-regulatory and institutional framework aimed at preventing non-State actors from owning, producing, transporting or using any type of weapons of mass destruction, or the means for delivery thereof. Such a framework prohibits any activity likely to contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and establishes an effective system for controlling foreign trade in arms, military equipment and dual-use goods.

Following the adoption of the Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, in January 2015 a national coordination body for

the implementation of the Action Plan was established, with the aim of preventing non-State actors, primarily terrorists, from coming into possession of weapons of mass destruction for the period 2014–2018.

The Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks for the period 2016–2020 was adopted in May 2016, and, along with the Action Plan for Resolution 1540, formed an effective basis for preventing and combating the spread of weapons of mass destruction, as well as for responding to potential chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.

In September 2016, the Government of Montenegro adopted a weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation strategy for the period 2016–2020. This document was drafted with the support of experts from the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency as part of a project implemented by the Agency through the Centre for Security Cooperation. The overall objective of the strategy is to prevent Montenegro from participating in the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and it is anticipated that this objective will be achieved through the implementation of four separate activities:

- Preventing the illegal development, procurement, manufacture, transport and use of weapons of mass destruction and dual-use items and technology
- Strengthening preventive measures at the national level and providing conditions for accomplishing the highest possible level of efficiency of the national model of Montenegro in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Ensuring readiness for a swift and efficient response to a possible crisis caused by weapons of mass destruction by creating conditions for the continuous improvement of the national system for the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Further provision of active contributions to international community efforts aimed at suppressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

With the adoption of the strategy, the national framework has been completed, meaning that the necessary components have been put into place and the conditions for successfully coping with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction have been created, so the emphasis is now on their comprehensive implementation.

Competent national institutions have been submitting yearly reports on the implementation of the above-mentioned Action Plans. Furthermore, the relevant national bodies, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is designing at the moment a road map for protection against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and risks, suppressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and preventing their possession by non-State actors for the period from 2022 to 2027.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[10 March 2021]

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.

Article 5 of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua enshrines the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, Nicaragua does not produce such weapons or their precursors and has therefore 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.

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

Nicaragua has signed, ratified and deposited the instruments for the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Protocol Additional to the Agreement with 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.

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 Political Constitution of Nicaragua prohibits the use of nuclear weapons and other types of weapon of mass destruction in internal and international conflicts, in accordance with the following legal instruments:

- A. Special Act No. 510, on the control and regulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials;
- B. Act No. 641, containing the Criminal Code;
- C. Act No. 977, on combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- D. Decree No. 15-2018, implementing regulations for Act No. 977;
- E. Decree No. 17-2014, on the implementation 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;
- H. Regulations on preventing, detecting and reporting activities connected with the Act on combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and predicate offences linked to money-laundering, for the lawyers and notaries public of the Republic of Nicaragua;
- I. Resolutions of the Office of the Superintendent of Banks and Other Financial Institutions, concerning non-compliance with Decree No. 15-2018:
 - a. Norm on the imposition of penalties on banking, financial and insurance entities;
 - b. Norm on the imposition of penalties on entities involved in the securities market;
 - c. Norm on the imposition of penalties on general bonded warehouses;
 - d. Norm on the imposition of penalties on entities involved in the securities market for non-compliance with regulations on money-

laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to strengthen national capacities in this regard

Nicaragua firmly supports bilateral, regional and international arms control and disarmament agreements, having as a principle the struggle for peace and the establishment of a just international order. It therefore established in 2020 the national commission on combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and subcommissions on regulation and supervision, and on prosecution and criminal penalties.

Republic of Moldova

[Original: English]
[24 May 2021]

The Republic of Moldova condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supports the international community's position regarding the definition of terrorism as one of the main threats to States' security. The Republic of Moldova also supports international cooperation and fully participates, through regulations and practical measures, in activities promoted by international organizations towards preventing and combating terrorism.

The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (adopted on 13 April 2005 in New York) was ratified by the Republic of Moldova in its Law No. 20-XVI as at 21 February 2008.

Essential legislative amendments have been made in order to harmonize the national legal framework and implement good practices in this field, the most important being the following:

- Amending article 134¹¹ of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova, where offences of terrorist character are stipulated.
- Introducing article 140¹ in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova, which qualifies as an offence the use, development, creation, acquisition in different ways, processing, detection, storage, direct or indirect transfer, maintenance or transportation of weapons of mass destruction.
- By amending articles 278¹, 279¹ and 279², important supplements have been implemented that stipulate that the delivery, placement, activation or detonation of an explosive device or any other device with fatal effect is criminally penalized; as is the recruitment, training or provision of any other support for a terroristic purpose, including the instigation or public justification of terrorism. Providing any other support for a terroristic purpose implies acquiring, maintaining, manufacturing, transporting or supplying weapons, munitions or any other destructive devices or means, biological weapons, poisonous or dangerous substances, facilitating State border trespassing, hosting, facilitating penetration into limited-access zones, collecting, holding with the aim of transmitting or offering data on targeted objects, as well as giving other support, in any form, deliberately or with knowledge that these actions will lead to offences of a terrorist character.
- Article 292 defines as an offence manufacturing, acquiring, processing, maintaining, transporting, using or neutralizing radioactive materials if these, recklessly, cause death or other serious consequences, or lethal danger, or serious personal injury, or essential damage to property or the environment.

- Article 295 defines as an offence the theft of radioactive materials or devices or nuclear installations, the threat of theft or the request to transfer such materials, devices and installations.
- Article 295¹ defines as an offence the possession, manufacture or use of radioactive materials or devices, or of nuclear installations, with the aim of causing death or serious harm to corporal integrity or to health, essential damage to property or the environment.
- Article 295² defines an attack on a nuclear installation as an offence.

According to the national legislation in the field of preventing and combating terrorism, the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with the international treaties that it is a part of, cooperates with the law enforcement authorities and intelligence services of other States, as well as international organizations that operate in this field. In order to ensure the security of the person, society and State, the Republic of Moldova pursues individuals involved in terrorist activities on its territory, including in cases where these actions were planned or committed outside its territory, but harmed the country's interests, and in other cases provided by the international treaties of which the Republic of Moldova is a part.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

[26 April 2021]

For more than 10 years, the Syrian Arab Republic has been ravaged by a terrorist war waged by armed organizations with extremist and destructive ideologies. Those organizations have carried out attacks all over Syria using various types of weapons, including chemical weapons and substances. These terrorist attacks constitute serious violations of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and other relevant resolutions. Syria has documented the use of chemicals by criminal terrorist organizations on several occasions. The attacks target every demographic group in Syrian society, whether civilian or military. Unfortunately, those violations are perpetrated with the support of the Governments of States Members of the United Nations both within and beyond the region, in coordination with their intelligence services.

The Syrian Arab Republic has confirmed that terrorist organizations have obtained chemical substances and weapons brought into Syria by way of Turkey with the support and funding of the Turkish Government. Those organizations attacked groups of Syrian Arab Army soldiers in several regions, including Khan al-Asal and Hawsh al-Farah. During the attacks, terrorist organizations tested a number of chemical materials and weapons. The Syrian Arab Republic has provided ample evidence of those acts.

Terrorist organizations continue to bring chemicals into the Syrian Arab Republic. Their aim is to stage elaborate spectacles in order to falsely accuse the Syrian Arab Army of using chemical weapons against civilians, all in the service of Western political agendas.

The silence of certain Security Council members regarding the possession and use of chemical substances and weapons by terrorist organizations in Syria is deplorable and a matter of great concern. That silence underscores the double standards applied by those States to questions of international peace and security.

Strengthening the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation framework is a vital contribution to preventing terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. The Syrian Arab Republic has ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Facilities. Syria acceded to the Convention on

the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2013.

Israel remains the only country in the Middle East that has not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State. It is also the only party that refuses to subject all its nuclear facilities and activities to an International Atomic Energy Agency comprehensive safeguards agreement, with no regard for the damage to regional peace, security and stability done by such refusal and the presence of dangerous nuclear weapons not subject to any international control.

Lastly, the Syrian Arab Republic calls for States that are supporting the activities of terrorist organizations in its territory to be held accountable for their grave violations of international resolutions and conventions on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to which they are party.

III. Reply received from the European Union

[Original: English]
[31 May 2021]

The European Union remains committed to preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear, chemical, biological and missile materials, technical know-how and technology, and therefore applies comprehensive export controls and implements Security Council resolutions [1540 \(2004\)](#), [2325 \(2016\)](#), [1887 \(2009\)](#) and [1977 \(2001\)](#). All European Union agreements with third countries contain a weapons of mass destruction clause.

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 and Nuclear Facilities as fundamental elements of the global nuclear security and anti-terrorism architecture. The European Union continued to support the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The European Union Nuclear Security Training Centre organizes exercises on countering nuclear smuggling, while the European Commission and member States continued their nuclear forensics activities.

The European Union continued to support the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including extensive diplomatic outreach in support of part I of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons 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, as well as for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and the strengthening of chemical safety and security in Ukraine.

The European Union continued its strong political and financial support for the full implementation and universalization of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. European Union support for the Convention's intersessional programme and the preparation of the ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention continued. A universal outreach campaign has been carried out in 13 countries. European Union contributions to strengthening biological safety and security in Ukraine and Latin America continued.

The European Union actively participated in the review process of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), leading to the adoption of resolution [2325 \(2016\)](#). The European Union provides financial support for the effective implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

The European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative aims at mitigating risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, strengthening partner countries' preparedness and nurturing security culture and governance. The European Union utilized the Initiative's network of partner countries to facilitate a number of training exercises.

The European Union supports the implementation and functioning of and universal adherence to the Hague Code of Conduct and has financed its outreach activities. The European Union continues to promote the universality of the Code and support its full implementation.

The European Union 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 access by terrorist networks to weapons of mass destruction and related technology. The European Union supports other multilateral efforts, such as the Nuclear Security Contact Group, to ensure worldwide commitment to nuclear security best practices. The European Union continued to participate actively in the meetings of the Group of Seven's Non-Proliferation Directors Group.

The European Union has worked to counter terrorism by closing down the space in which terrorists operate. Of the 25 member States bound by its directive on combating terrorism, 23 adopted new legislation by 2020. The European Union has adopted a cybersecurity strategy and published the European Democracy Action Plan to tackle disinformation and better protect the electoral process. Cooperation on the cybersecurity of 5G networks across Europe has been reinforced. A European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register has been set up to gather judicial information to establish links in proceedings against suspects of terrorist offences that have potential cross-border implications.

IV. Replies received from international organizations

Commonwealth of Independent States

[Original: Russian]
[23 March 2021]

The States 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. CIS 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 consistently being improved to take into account the changing situation and threats, including the possible acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

In a decision, dated 18 December 2020, the CIS Council of Heads of State approved a framework for military cooperation among States members of CIS for the period until 2025. The decision includes, as one of the priority areas for cooperation among competent bodies, the coordination of efforts to control the trafficking of arms

and military equipment, and to control materials and technologies related to their manufacture that are of interest to terrorist groups.

Agreement is being reached at the domestic level on a draft 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. Conclusion of the treaty is projected to take place at the meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State in October 2021.

In a decision dated 11 October 2019, the CIS Council of Heads of State approved a programme for cooperation in countering terrorism and other forms of violent extremism for the period 2020–2022.

As part of the measures to harmonize domestic laws, the programme includes the drafting of a model law on the use of military poisonous, radioactive, virulent and toxic substances, as well as biological pathogens, for terrorist purposes.

In 2020, in line with the implementation of the programme, organizational and practical measures continued to be carried out to:

- Identify and dismantle laboratories used to assemble equipment and means for perpetrating terrorist and extremist offences, including materials for manufacturing weapons of mass destruction;
- Prevent, detect and suppress activities associated with assisting terrorist organizations and criminal networks, groups and individuals involved in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in arms, ammunition, explosives, explosive devices, toxic chemicals and biological pathogens, nuclear material and radioactive substances;
- Ensure the protection of sites that pose a high technological and environmental risk.

In addition, under the programme, special training is being provided to counter-terrorism forces and entities for suppressing criminal activity connected with the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Systematic efforts continue to be made to improve the arrangements by which States exchange security and law and order information, in particular with regard to preventing crime in the territories of the CIS States and developing automated databases that could be used 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.

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

[Original: English]
[14 May 2021]

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 area.

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:

- Conducting regional, subregional or national seminars and workshops, as well as virtual events, 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 available examples of national legislation and a survey of the texts 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).
- 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.

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[10 May 2021]

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to assist States, upon request, through the implementation of its Nuclear Security Plan for 2018–2021, while also adapting to the circumstances of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Agency continued to promote the universal adherence to and effective implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment, one of the primary binding international instruments relevant to nuclear security, including by organizing, in December 2020,

the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention, now rescheduled for 2022.

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 2020 and approved one new document and two revisions of existing publications. By the end of 2020, IAEA had issued a cumulative total of 39 publications in the Nuclear Security Series, with more than 15 draft publications under development.

To help member States fulfil their international obligations, the Agency planned to conduct four International Physical Protection Advisory Service missions in 2020; however, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic all missions were postponed to 2021 and 2022. The total number of such missions conducted to date stays unchanged at 90. 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 Agency guidance on the protection of nuclear and other radioactive material, associated facilities and associated 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 2020, States reported 125 incidents involving nuclear and other radioactive material outside of regulatory control, bringing the total in the Database to 3,808 confirmed incidents reported by participating States.

In 2020, IAEA continued to advise States virtually on formal threat characterization and assessment; the development, use and maintenance of design basis threats; vulnerability analysis; and the development of methodologies for assessing the performance of physical protection systems. Other activities, such as securing vulnerable radioactive sources, upgrading facilities and repatriating sources of high radioactivity, continued.

The Agency also continued to provide assistance to member States in implementing nuclear security systems and measures for major public events. In 2020, such assistance was provided to three States, with more than 118 radiation detection instruments loaned to support States in securing major public events.

In 2020, the Agency conducted 42 training activities related to nuclear and radiological security, including 28 at the national level and 14 at the regional or international level, for more than 650 participants from 75 States. In addition, the Agency conducted 23 webinars related to nuclear and radiological security for approximately 3,100 participants, and 17 virtual coordination and implementation meetings on Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans with member States.

International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]

[17 May 2021]

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) supports the counter-terrorism objectives set out in General Assembly resolution [73/55](#), entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, by enhancing the security of the international civil aviation system through international legal instruments on counter-terrorism and through the development and review of Standards and Recommended Practices in annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

ICAO continues to promote the universal adoption of the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (Beijing Convention), which entered into force on 1 July 2018. The Beijing Convention criminalizes acts of using civil aircraft for the purpose of causing death, serious bodily injury or serious damage; of using civil aircraft to release or discharge any biological, chemical or nuclear weapon or similar substances to cause death, serious bodily injury or serious damage; and of using any such weapon or similar substances on board or against civil aircraft. It further criminalizes the unlawful transport of any such weapon, related material or other dangerous material. As at 1 May 2021, the Beijing Convention had been ratified by 34 States, and the fortieth session of the ICAO Assembly, through its resolution A40-11, entitled “Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to aviation security”, and its resolution A40-28, entitled “Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the legal field”, urged States that had not ratified the Beijing Convention to do so as soon as possible.

To facilitate States’ assessment of the risk that civil aviation faces from chemical, biological and radiological threats, among others, ICAO issues annual risk advice through its aviation security global Risk Context Statement. The Statement includes an assessment of the global aviation threat picture, a description of the different threat scenarios that are considered, the utilized methodology and the obtained risk levels.

Other guidance material includes the 12th edition of the ICAO Aviation Security Manual, which is available in all ICAO working languages. This document includes updated guidance on explosives detection methods, such as the use of explosives trace detection equipment, body scanners and explosives detection systems for cabin baggage, as well as explosives detection dogs for air cargo screening. The Manual also addresses the protection of civil aviation infrastructure against unmanned aircraft, as this vector of attack is of growing concern, especially in conflict zone areas.

With regard to the legal transport of dangerous goods as cargo on aircraft, annex 18, “The Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air”, together with the detailed specifications contained in the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, 2021–2022 edition, provide States with an internationally agreed set of provisions governing their safe transport for all international operations of civil aircraft. With regard to the transport of high-consequence dangerous goods, additional security measures are contained therein. Furthermore, ICAO has worked with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to facilitate transporting samples for analysis. In December 2020 and January 2021, two addenda to the Technical Instructions amended provisions related to the transport of infectious substances in order to facilitate the safe transport of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pharmaceuticals.

International Maritime Organization

[Original: English]
[28 May 2021]

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) instruments relevant to General Assembly resolution [75/58](#) and Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) are:

(a) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988; the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, 1988; and corresponding protocols of 2005;

(b) Chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, and part A of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, adopted in 2002 and which entered into force on 1 July 2004.

The Code focuses on the protection of port facilities and ships through preventive measures to deter and detect unlawful acts, primarily addressing physical security, control of access and security procedures. The 1988 and 2005 Convention and protocols make it illegal, under international law, to attack ships or platforms fixed on the continental shelf, including offences relating to acts of terrorism on board ships; criminalize the carriage of weapons of mass destruction and terrorist fugitives; and introduce provisions to enable the boarding of vessels on the high seas pursuant to such offences.

IMO has developed and implemented a comprehensive global technical cooperation programme which focuses on assisting States in the national organization of maritime security and the implementation, verification and enforcement of and compliance with the provisions of chapter XI-2, the Code and the Convention and protocols, as well as assisting States with the long-range identification and tracking of ships for enhanced maritime situational awareness.

IMO has forged strong links with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the World Customs Organization and other international and regional partners in the delivery of technical cooperation projects for maritime and border security, and has participated in numerous in-country needs assessment missions with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate related to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in which IMO serves as the maritime component of a multi-agency United Nations border management security team. IMO is likewise engaged with several of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact working groups, most notably the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism, and its work to help States implement comprehensive and coordinated approaches to address the threat of terrorism in the context of cross-border activities.

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

[Original: English]

[31 May 2021]

In order to mitigate the risk of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute has continued to deploy a wide range of tools through partnerships, action-oriented research and the provision of technical assistance to multiple actors worldwide, tailoring its approach to the particular dynamics of specific countries, regions and local contexts.

As part of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, which brings together stakeholders from 62 countries at the international, regional, national and local levels to cooperate in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security governance, the Institute organized several interregional expert meetings to share good practices in the management of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis. Furthermore, the Institute is also in the process of developing a chemical and biological crime scene management guidebook as part of the Initiative.

Through the CONTACT Project, the Institute is also currently supporting countries from the Middle East, the Black Sea and South-East Asia to improve the capabilities of State security and law enforcement officials to devise, plan and carry out intelligence operations to thwart radiological and nuclear trafficking attempts, including through the timely exchange of information and intelligence.

As part of the Project, the Institute is helping partner countries with the production of training curricula and the development, delivery and monitoring of several training activities in the partner countries. The Project's training curriculum, consisting of 18 modules on nuclear security, nuclear physics, intelligence and law enforcement techniques, and training methodology, was finalized in collaboration with national experts, and also adapted for online training delivery. The training sessions empowered the local radiological and nuclear security practitioners, so that they will be able to deliver training to their national officers, thereby creating a sustainable training system.

The Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada, the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, the United Kingdom Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

The Institute, in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States of America, has also provided support to the International Network on Biotechnology, a global network of academic and research institutions committed to advancing education and raising awareness about responsible life science. During the COVID-19 pandemic, special attention has been dedicated to the production of training and educational material to prevent and combat the malicious use of social media to spread disinformation about COVID-19.

The Institute has also recently published two reports relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: "Science, technology and innovation: understanding advancements from the perspective of countering weapons of mass destruction" (in collaboration with the Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre) and "Stop the virus of disinformation".

In the near future, the Institute will focus on reinforcing local and regional capacity-building on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation, including investigations to disrupt chemical attacks by non-State actors, the development of training materials for prosecutors and judges on prosecuting and adjudicating nuclear security incidents, and a test of innovative ideas to reinforce chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security, including the application of big data analytics to monitor weapons of mass destruction proliferation and the use of serious games and virtual reality to train customs officials at border crossings.

Office of Counter-Terrorism

[Original: English]

[20 May 2021]

In 2020, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and its Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, provided a forum to coordinate the initiatives of Counter-Terrorism Compact entities in support of Member States' efforts to prevent and respond to the misuse of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials and to enhance the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks.

In addition to regular coordination meetings, the Working Group held three thematic workshops and a webinar and produced a final report within the framework of a joint project on the theme "Technology and security: enhancing knowledge about advances in science and technology to combat weapons of mass destruction terrorism", funded and co-implemented by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, together with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

The Working Group also facilitated a series of focused meetings, thematic discussions and briefings on strategies to deploy unmanned aerial systems to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from weapon of mass destruction terrorist attacks (led by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute); Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (led by the Office for Disarmament Affairs); the role of customs and other law enforcement in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive material security and its links with counter-terrorism efforts (led by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization); and the international legal framework against biological terrorism (led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)).

Moreover, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre's programme on preventing and responding to weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism delivered outreach and capacity-building activities at the global, regional and national levels, benefiting more than 1,000 officials from over 100 Member States. Activities included a webinar on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the risk of bioterrorism; an interactive discussion on pandemics and bioterrorism during the Office of Counter-Terrorism's July 2020 virtual high-level Counter-Terrorism Week; an international workshop on countering nuclear terrorism in South-East Asia; and a national training session on countering biological and chemical terrorism in Iraq. The Counter-Terrorism Centre implemented these activities in partnership with the European Union, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, UNODC and the United States of America.

Furthermore, the Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, together with INTERPOL, launched the first phase of its global threat study on non-State actors and their potential use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives materials. The study is composed of five phases covering the Middle East and North Africa; sub-Saharan Africa; South-East Asia; Western, Central and Southern Asia; and the Americas.

The Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre continued its cooperation with other United Nations entities, international organizations and initiatives, including the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the International Atomic Energy Agency, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the World Customs Organization and the World Health Organization, as well as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[10 July 2020]

The following outlines measures taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to prevent and counter terrorism, in particular on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

UNODC regularly cooperates with relevant stakeholders in the implementation of its chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear-related mandate.

In 2020, Saint Kitts and Nevis became party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and Angola and Eritrea adhered to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment, as a result of the Office's technical assistance to these States.

In September 2020, amid mounting concerns over the potential use of biological agents by terrorist groups, the Office developed and held an online awareness-raising event on the international legal framework against biological terrorism. The event aimed at raising awareness on the existing international legal instruments that address the threat of biological terrorism and discussing synergies and complementarities.

With the Office of Counter-Terrorism, UNODC implements a global project, funded by the European Union, to promote the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism aimed at assisting Member States in adhering to and legislatively incorporating and implementing this legal instrument. The project includes awareness-raising activities, the capacity-building of judges and prosecutors, a website on the Convention, legislative assistance, webinars and the development of training materials, such as case studies and an eLearning module. Within the framework of this project, in 2020, UNODC conducted 10 webinars in English, French and Spanish, a national workshop in Uganda and a review of the national legislation of Paraguay in relation to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. In October 2020, UNODC held an online training event on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism for English-speaking African States not party to the Convention.

In the context of activities on strengthening legal frameworks for nuclear security, funded by Canada, UNODC produced an eLearning module on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. The module is currently available in all six official languages of the United Nations and in Portuguese. By December 2020, more than 1,200 practitioners from over 90 countries had successfully completed the module. In February 2020, UNODC held a national workshop for the Philippines on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. During the same period, the Office held a workshop for countries of the Caribbean Community on the universalization of 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.

In 2020, UNODC developed and launched a series of webinars on the theme “Countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism: international legal approaches and criminal justice responses”. These webinars aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States in detecting and responding to the threat of non-State actors acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or weapons, raising awareness on the applicable international legal framework, and enhancing the capacities of criminal justice officials and other relevant stakeholders to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases. In 2020, 11 webinars were delivered in English, French and Spanish (10 under a project funded by the European Union and 1 under a project funded by Canada).

The Office supported various countries in South Asia to counter the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors by providing capacity-building to relevant criminal justice officials to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate related cases. In 2020, the Office supported Pakistan with its national frameworks for countering the financing of terrorism, including through two simulated criminal investigation and trial exercises on the investigation and prosecution of terrorist financing for law enforcement and criminal justice officers from Sindh Province.

In July 2020, the Office launched an eLearning module on countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. The module aims at enhancing understanding of the schemes used by terrorist groups to raise funds and examines the appropriate measures to prevent terrorist fundraising and to seize funds.

UNODC has been providing capacity-building training on countering the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as part of the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism since 2019. In 2020, inter-agency training courses focusing on the prevention, detection, investigation and disruption of proliferation financing activities were delivered in four jurisdictions and awareness-raising workshops on this topic were delivered to the government authorities of 22 Member States. All activities highlighted the importance of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors by fully implementing the counter-proliferation financing stipulations of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The Office's Global Programme against Money-Laundering has received further requests for assistance for ongoing and more in-depth technical assistance from Member States and stands ready to provide it, pending additional extrabudgetary resources.

The UNODC-World Customs Organization Container Control Programme contributes to the detection, deterrence, prevention and combating of illicit trafficking of commodities that could contribute to weapons of mass destruction, as identified through Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The Programme's training on strategic trade and export control addresses the challenging topic of commodities related to chemical, biological, nuclear materials and their means of delivery, as well as commodities associated with small arms/light weapons, and contributing to manufacture of improvised explosive devices, within the methodology of the Container Control Programme. The methodology consists of targeting and risk analysis for suspect shipments, whether land, air or sea, and examining the highest risks for potential violations. Several Port Control and Air Cargo Control Units have had successful interdictions that include hafnium, large volumes of fertilizer and mobile phones (suspected for use in manufacturing improvised explosive devices), and military-related parts and components.