Aims and Structure

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is was established in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in the United Nations Office at Vienna. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and it incorporates the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

UNODC was established to assist the UN in better addressing a coordinated and comprehensive response to the interrelated issues of illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism and political corruption. These goals are pursued through three primary functions: research, guidance and support to governments in the adoption and implementation of various crime, drug, terrorism, and corruption-related conventions, treaties and protocols, as well as technical and financial assistance to said governments to face their respective situations and challenges in these fields.

These are the main themes that UNODC deals with: Alternative Development, Corruption, Criminal Justice, Prison Reform and Crime Prevention, Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care, HIV and AIDS, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, Money Laundering, Organized Crime, Piracy, Terrorism Prevention.

UNODC is governed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), that are policymaking bodies within the United Nations system and guide international action against drugs and crime. The CND and CCPCJ are
functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Their resolutions and decisions provide guidance in their respective areas to Member States and the UNODC. Both Commissions have tasked a standing open-ended intergovernmental working group with considering how to improve the governance structure and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

UNODOC, employing between 1,500 and 2,000 people worldwide, has its headquarters in Vienna (Austria), with 21 field offices and two other offices in Brussels and in New York City. The United Nations Secretary-General appoints the agency's Executive Director. Yuri Fedotov, the former Russian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, has held this position since his appointment in 2010, when he succeeded Antonio Maria Costa in his personal capacity, and also as General Director of the United Nations Office at Vienna. Approximately 90% of the Office's funding comes from voluntary contributions, mainly from governments.

The World Drug Report

The World Drug Report is a yearly publication that presents a comprehensive assessment of the international drug problem, with detailed information on the illicit drug situation. It provides estimates and information on trends in the production, trafficking and use of opium/heroin, coca/cocaine, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants. The Report, based on data and estimates collected or prepared by Governments, UNODC and other international institutions, attempts to identify trends in the evolution of global illicit drug markets. Through the World Drug Report, UNODC aims to enhance Member States' understanding of global illicit drug trends and increase their awareness of the need for more systematic collection and reporting of data relating to illicit drugs.
Treaties against Crimes

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is a legally binding instrument that entered into force on 29 September 2003, through which States parties commit to taking a series of measures against transnational organized crime. States that ratify the convention have to adopt new, sweeping frameworks for mutual legal assistance, extradition, law enforcement cooperation, technical assistance and training. The convention signifies an important stage in dealing with transnational crime by recognizing the seriousness of the problem that the crime poses, and gaining understanding from the member states of the importance of a cooperative measure.

The convention is complemented by three different protocols:

- the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children;
- the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;
- the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children aims to provide a convergence in the states' domestic offenses in the investigation and the persecution process.

The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air is concerned with the aggravating problem of organized crime groups for smuggling persons. The protocol aims to prevent transnational smuggling as well as to promote cooperative measures for enhancing protective measures for victims.

The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition was adopted to prevent and provide a cooperative measure for illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. By adopting the protocol, the member states commit to adopt domestic criminal offences for illegal manufacturing, providing governmental licensing ammunition, and keeping track of the ammunition.

United Nations Convention against Corruption

In Resolution 55/61, the General Assembly recognized that an effective international legal instrument against corruption, independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational...
Organized Crime was desirable. The text of the Convention was negotiated during seven sessions held between 21 January 2002 and 1 October 2003. The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly on 31 October 2003. In 2003, the United Nations adopted the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The Convention came into force in December 2005. As of 9 November 2012, 140 countries had signed and 164 countries (States Parties) had ratified the UNCAC. UNODC serves as the Secretariat for the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the UNCAC. UNODC, as the custodian of UNCAC, is also one of the main initiators of the establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), whose main function is to, inter alia, facilitate more effective implementation of the UNCAC.

**Drug-related treaties**

There are three drug related treaties that guide UNODC’s drug related programs. These are:

- The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol;
the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. These three major international drug control treaties are mutually supportive and complementary. An important purpose of the first two treaties is to codify internationally applicable control measures in order to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, and to prevent their diversion into illicit channels. They also include general provisions on trafficking and drug abuse.

I. IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Over the past 30 years, UNODC has played a leading role in assisting Member States in developing and implementing drug control policy. Alternative development is a fundamental pillar of a comprehensive drug control strategy and continues to be the principal method used by Members States and UNODC to address illicit drug crop cultivation.

UNODC's alternative development programmes centre on helping small farmers with licit income generation activities to reduce their dependency on income from opium and coca cultivation. Efforts are also focused on health, education, basic infrastructure, community development and food security. Special attention is given to environmental protection and improved markets for alternative development products. UNODC supported alternative development also empowers
communities while ensuring that both men and women equally benefit from development interventions.

In partnerships with Governments and the private sector, UNODC facilitates the sale of alternative development products on national and international markets. Products of alternative development are produced in due respect of human rights and the environment, and farmers are often organized in associations, which guarantees direct ownership of the main stakeholders. The processing and commercialization of the products in cooperation with the private sector is an important part of the strategy, as it generates added-value and thus income for the farmers.

Alternative development products comprise a variety of different products, inter alia, coffee, chocolate, tea, beans and palm hearts coffee, honey, coconuts, dairy products and gourmet sauces.

The experiences of UNODC’s global activities contribute to the establishment of a repository of technical knowledge which is used by governments and UNODC to design new programmes and projects, identify indicators of achievement and benchmarks, develop capacity building programmes and disseminate material for advocacy and resource mobilization.

UNODC also facilitates the sale of alternative development products on national and international markets, eg:

*Coffee is a traditional alternative development product in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.*
The Oro Verde line of products from Peru includes coffee and chocolate which are sold locally and exported too.

Currently, UNODC supports and promotes sustainable alternative development programmes and projects in six countries. In general, the level of progress made to date differs between the Andean region and South East Asia and Central Asia. For example, in Colombia and Peru, alternative development programmes have moved away from focusing on food security and the emphasis is now largely on increasing the production of agricultural products for export markets. In South East Asia, programmes in Lao PDR and Myanmar continue to strive to reduce levels of poverty and ensure food security.

National support to AD programmes had also experienced a shift in recent times. For example, AD projects in Colombia are almost entirely fully funded by the government and Peru has increased its national investment substantially. Afghanistan, Lao PDR and Myanmar on the other hand, continue to depend largely on international donor assistance. Although national funding has increased, donor assistance has not kept the same pace perpetuating a low coverage rate for farming communities engaged in illicit crop cultivation.

UNODC's global alternative development activities include developing best practices and lessons learned and improving analysis and dissemination of project results. In-depth studies and evaluations of alternative development programmes and projects are conducted to monitor and track the progress made in areas such as environmental considerations, gender mainstreaming, credit schemes, income diversification, the role of community organizations and sound project monitoring and management at local and national levels. Experience from previous projects has shown that isolated alternative development projects are usually insufficient to bring about sustained change, and that engagement in illicit cultivation needs to be understood and acted upon in terms of how it relates to broader national and regional political, economic, social and development problems. Objectives of human development, sustainable reduction in illicit cultivation, drug control and the lessons learned by alternative development interventions need to be integrated into development policies, strategies and programmes.
“Alternative development continues to be recognized by Member States as a fundamental pillar of a comprehensive drug control strategy and plays an important role as a development oriented drug control approach. Let us not forget that behind the policies, we have hundreds of thousands of farmers affected by poverty, food insecurity, lack of land, instability who as a result engage in illicit drug cultivation. It is our common responsibility to continue addressing the livelihood of these people, despite the challenges that the international community is faced with today, including the financial constraints.”

1Yury Fedotov speech at the opening of the side-event "Outreach to new Stakeholders in the Field of Alternative Development" 57th CND, 2014
II. COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

“The purpose of terrorism is to terrorize. And terror is, above all, a response on the part of people. This definitional truth, however, is only partial. The effects of terrorist activities, like the individual and collective motives for such activities, can be multiple: political, economic, military and symbolic”\(^2\).

Terrorism is now universally recognized as a threat to international peace and security, and its evolution in the past 20 years has contributed to raise concern about its capability to gain access to weapons and to control territories. In 2014, speaking at the UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that “the world is witnessing a dramatic evolution in the nature of the terrorist threat”, referring to extremist groups and widespread attacks on civilians all over the world and to the UN itself in Iraq, Nigeria, etc. Of particular concern is the link between organized crime and terrorism, since the latter profits from antiquities trafficking, weapons, drug smuggling but also from kidnapping.

All these criminal activities have a disastrous impact on local societies and economics. However, despite the awareness of the threat posed by terrorism, the international community still fails to agree on a definition of “terrorism” and it has serious implications when it comes to address this problem at global level. The problem seems to be “how to formulate the term without criminalizing all armed resistance to oppressive regimes (…) how to distinguish legitimate armed struggle from terrorism and how much emphasis to place on identifying root causes of grievances that lead individuals and groups to adopt terrorist methods”\(^3\).

How Should the Government respond to Terrorism?

George Friedman wrote that recent warnings by the U.S. government of possible terrorist attacks in Europe illustrate the fact that jihadist terrorism is a threat the world will have to live with for the foreseeable future. Certainly, every effort should be made to disrupt terrorist groups and

\(^2\) Making the Nation Safer: the Role of Science and Technology for Countering Terrorism, National Research Council

\(^3\) “Using the General Assembly” in “Terrorism and the UN: Before and After September 11”, M.J.Peterson
independent cells, or lone wolves, and to prevent attacks. Basically, it is impossible to destroy the phenomenon of terrorism. At this moment, jihadists in various parts of the world are seeking ways to carry out attacks against targets in the United States and Europe and, inevitably, some of these plots will succeed. George also noted that, all too often, governments raise the alert level regarding a potential terrorist attack without giving the public any actionable intelligence, which leaves people without any sense of what to do about the threat. The world is a dangerous place, and violence and threats of violence have always been a part of the human condition. Hadrian's Wall was built for a reason, and there is a reason we all have to take our shoes off at the airport today. While there is danger in the world, that does not mean people have to hide under their beds and wait for something tragic to happen. Nor should people count on the government to save them from every potential threat. Even very effective military, counterterrorism, law enforcement and homeland security efforts cannot succeed in eliminating the threat because the universe of potential actors is simply too large and dispersed. There are, however, common-sense security measures that people should take regardless of the threat level.
Before any measures can be taken, one must first recognize that threats exist. Ignorance or denial of a threat and paying no attention to one's surroundings make a person's chances of quickly recognizing a threat and then reacting in time to avoid it quite remote. Only pure luck or the attacker's incompetence can save such a person. Apathy, denial and complacency, therefore, can be, and often are, deadly. A second important element is recognizing the need to take responsibility for one's own security. The resources of any government are finite and the authorities simply cannot be everywhere and stop every terrorist act. As we've mentioned previously, terrorist attacks do not magically materialize. They are part of a deliberate process consisting of several distinct steps. And there are many points in that process where the plotters are vulnerable to detection. People practicing situational awareness can often spot this planning process as it unfolds and take appropriate steps to avoid the dangerous situation or prevent it from happening altogether. But situational awareness can transcend the individual. When it is exercised by a large number of people, situational awareness can also be an important face of national security. The citizens of a nation have far more capability to notice suspicious behaviour than the intelligence services and police, and this type of grassroots defence is growing more important as the terrorist threat becomes increasingly diffuse and as attackers focus more and more on soft targets. This is something noted behind warnings issued by the chief of France's Central Directorate of Interior Intelligence regarding the terrorist threat France faces. It is important to emphasize that practicing situational awareness does not mean living in a state of constant fear and paranoia. Fear and paranoia are in fact counterproductive to good personal security.

Now, there are times when it is prudent to be in a heightened state of awareness, but people are simply not designed to operate in that state for prolonged periods. Relaxed awareness allows one to move into a higher state of alert as the situation requires, a transition that is very difficult if one is not paying any attention at all. This state of awareness permits people to go through life attentively, but in a relaxed, sustainable and less-stressful manner.”

“Of course, not all emergencies occur close to home, and the current U.S. government warning was issued for citizens traveling in Europe, so a discussion here of travel security is certainly worthwhile. Obviously, the need to practice situational awareness applies during travel as much as it does anywhere else. There are, however, other small steps that can be taken to help keep one safe

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4 Handbook on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism – Situational Awareness.
from criminals and terrorists when away from home. In recent years, terrorists have frequently targeted hotels, which became attractive soft targets when embassies and other diplomatic missions began hardening their security. This means that travellers should not only look at the cost of a hotel room but also carefully consider the level of security provided by a hotel before they make a choice. In past attacks, such as the November 2005 hotel bombings in Amman, Jordan, the attackers surveilled a number of facilities and selected those they felt were the most vulnerable. Location is also a critical consideration. Hotels that are close to significant landmarks or hotels that are themselves landmarks should be considered carefully. Travelers should also request rooms that are somewhere above the ground floor to prevent a potential attacker from easily entering the room but not more than several stories up so that a fire department extension ladder can reach them in an emergency. Rooms near the front of the hotel or facing the street should be avoided when possible; attacks against hotels typically target the foyer or lobby at the front of the building. Hotel guests should also learn where the emergency exits are and physically walk the route to ensure it is free from obstruction. It is not unusual to find emergency exits blocked or chained and locked in Third World countries. And it is prudent to avoid lingering in high-risk areas such as hotel lobbies, the front desk and entrance areas and bars. Western diplomats, business people and journalists who frequently congregate in these areas have been attacked or otherwise targeted on numerous occasions in many different parts of the world. There are also a number of practical steps than can be taken to stay safe at foreign airports, aboard public transportation and while on aircraft; more information on that topic can be found here. 

“The actually, it is important to keep the terrorist threat in perspective. As noted above, threats of violence have always existed, and the threat posed to Europe by jihadist terrorists today is not much different from that posed by Marxist or Palestinian terrorists in the 1970s. It is also far less of a threat than the people of Europe experienced from the army of the Umayyad Caliphate at Tours in 732, or when the Ottoman Empire attacked Vienna in 1683. Indeed, far more people (including tourists) will be affected by crime than terrorism in Europe this year, and more people will be killed in European car accidents than terrorist attacks. If people live their lives in a constant state of fear, those who seek to terrorize them have won. Terror attacks are a tactic used by a variety of militant groups for a variety of ends. As the name implies, terrorism is intended to produce a psychological

5 Handbook on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism – Travel Security.
impact that far outweighs the actual physical damage caused by the attack itself. Denying would be
terrorists this multiplication effect, as the British largely did after the July 2005 subway bombings,
prevents them from accomplishing their greater goals. Terror can be countered
when people assume the proper mindset and then take basic security measures and practice relaxed awareness. These elements work together to dispel paranoia and to prevent the fear of terrorism from robbing people of the joy of life.”

Making the Sahel a priority: a UNODC comprehensive response to fight transnational crime and terrorism

With the support of UNODC, the Sahel Programme Progress Report 2017 was officially launched in Vienna this month, showcasing the results achieved by the countries in the Sahel region regarding the fight against drug trafficking, transnational crime and terrorism.

Presented in attendance of Aldo Lale-Demoz, UNODC Deputy Executive Director; Marou Amadou, Minister for Justice of Niger; Lotfi Bouchaara, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations in Vienna; and Pierre Lapaque, UNODC Regional Representative for West and Central Africa, the report outlined that, spanning across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, and located in a semidesert area, the Sahel remains as one of the poorest regions in the world. Two-thirds of 70 million inhabitants of the Sahel are under the age of 25, and the region needs strong support for effective border control, accountable criminal justice systems, and strengthened law enforcement capacities.

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6 Handbook on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism – Perspective.
7 Results and Activities: Sahel Programme Report (UNODC). June 2017
"The nexus between terrorism and transnational crime has become blatant, and it is now mandatory to involve member States towards closer cooperation in order to address these challenges, where illicit financial transactions related to drug trafficking, and trafficking in persons are often used to support violent extremism and terrorism," said Mr. Lale-Demoz.

To make progress, the countries in the region established a Security Cooperation Platform and UNODC experts have provided specialized training to strengthen capacity to counter terrorism and transnational organized crime.

The main achievements of the platform include the creation of a Specialized Judicial Unit to strengthen the fight against terrorism and its financing in Burkina Faso, the dismantling of an international drug trafficking network in Mali, and the creation of a law to ensure better access to legal aid for citizens in Mauritania.

Following the adoption of an anti-corruption bill in December 2016, Niger has recovered more than $ 5 million in assets. This year, the Government signed a UN protocol that ensures the protection of children associated with armed and terrorist groups and agrees to refer such children to protection services.

"The support of UNODC, as we have seen, has been an important contribution to improving the criminal chain in dealing with terrorist offences cases," said Mr. Amadou.

The platform also reports on seizures of illicit drugs, passports and gold, as well as dollar bills through the training of Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) and the Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) officers.
The report adds that the Sahel Programme implementation will continue with a greater focus on the South-South cooperation and on priority areas, including pro-active investigation techniques to counter transnational crime in key border zones and foreign terrorist fighters, cybercrime and radicalization.

The Programme also works closely with Algeria, Libya and Morocco, as well as other UN entities in order to address the challenges affecting the region, and to strengthen countries' integration into activities and initiatives in the region.
III. Strengthening the role of the United Nations in fighting terrorism

The UN system is today the centre of many counterterrorist efforts, with thirty-five bodies within its system engaged, due to its capacity of global outreach, legal authority and legitimacy. Since 1972, the UN General Assembly has been pivotal in developing a normative framework for the definition of terrorism and managed to conclude a series of fourteen international law - creating treaties and four protocols. Based on these treaties, terrorist acts such as attacks against airports, civil aviation, diplomats, nuclear material, etc have been outlawed. Nowadays, the more recent conventions, address the problems of terrorist bombings, financing and nuclear terrorism, together with technical assistance provided to countries whose legal systems are frail.

In 1996, the General Assembly drafted the Comprehensive International Convention on Terrorism, but once again differences in the definition of the term terrorism have hampered the ratification process. In 2004, the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, called by the Secretary-General, proposed a definition and called the General Assembly to conclude the Convention. Despite progresses, in particular with reference to the 2005 World Summit, where terrorism was condemned in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, the Convention was not concluded. Nevertheless, in 2006, the General Assembly adopted
the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288), trying to provide a global framework for addressing the issue of terrorism.

Eighteen universal instruments (fourteen instruments and four amendments) against international terrorism have been elaborated within the framework of the United Nations system relating to specific terrorist activities. Member States, through the General Assembly, have been increasingly coordinating their counter-terrorism efforts and continuing their legal norm-setting work. The Security Council has also been active in countering terrorism through resolutions and by establishing several subsidiary bodies. At the same time a number of programmes, offices and agencies of the United Nations system have been engaged in specific activities against terrorism, further assisting Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts.

To consolidate and enhance these activities, Member States in September 2006 embarked upon a new phase in their counter-terrorism efforts by agreeing on a global strategy to counter terrorism. The Strategy marks the first time that all Member States of the United Nations have agreed to a common strategic and operational framework to fight terrorism. The Strategy forms a basis for a concrete plan of action: to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; to prevent and combat terrorism; to take measures to build state capacity to fight terrorism; to strengthen the role of the United Nations in combating terrorism; and to ensure the respect of human rights while countering terrorism. The Strategy builds on the unique consensus achieved by world leaders at their 2005 September Summit to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
The Four Pillars of the UN Strategy

Given their comparative advantages, RSRs (Regional and Subregional bodies) have a central role to play in devising tailor-made approaches for implementing each of the UN Strategy’s four pillars among their respective members. The general nature of many of the Strategy’s provisions allows regions and subregions a degree of latitude as they seek to develop implementation plans and programs. They will need to determine how best to implement the Strategy to maximize its impact on the ground. This flexibility is significant because the nature and scope of the terrorist threat vary from region to region. A one-size-fits-all approach to implementation is thus neither effective nor appropriate.

Pillar I: Measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

The Strategy enumerates a series of possible conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national, and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalization, and lack of good governance.

However, not all are equally relevant to each region or subregion and few are more aware of conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in the particular area than are RSRs. Moreover, achieving consensus at the global level on how best to address these conditions and deciding which ones deserve priority treatment have proven elusive. Thus, tackling these questions in regional and subregional contexts is more likely to address the concerns of local stakeholders and thus may bear more fruit.

One of the most important contributions that RSRs can make to addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism is in the realm of preventive diplomacy and working to resolve and prevent the regional and subregional conflicts that fuel terrorism. As the Strategy notes: “successful prevention and peaceful resolution of prolonged unresolved conflict would contribute to strengthening the global fight against terrorism.”

Many of the conflicts often linked to the spread of terrorism (e.g., Israel/Palestine and India/Pakistan) are regional in nature and require regional solutions. In certain areas, regional
organizations have demonstrated great potential in this regard. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), for example, through its monitoring missions and other mechanisms, has played a very constructive role in defusing ethno-nationalist, separatist, and religious conflicts in Southeastern Europe and Central Asia.

In addition, RSRs may be well-situated to garner a deeper understanding of the local academic and religious communities, can foster connections to these groups, and can play a leading role in promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and developing culturally sensitive projects aimed at the empowerment of moderate religious scholars, and civil society.

They can provide fora for sharing experiences and best practices in national efforts to reach out to moderate religious leaders and their communities across different faiths and in building or reforming schools, prisons, and other institutions as part of an effort to tackle radicalization. Finally, they offer platforms for sharing experiences in growing efforts to “de-radicalize” former violent extremists.

**Pillar II: Measures to prevent and combat terrorism**

RSRs can also play key roles in working with their members to monitor and foster implementation of the preventive counterterrorism measures that constitute the Strategy’s second pillar. For example, they can promote the development of a uniform regional or subregional counterterrorism regime to allow for the necessary judicial and law enforcement cooperation between and among countries to help ensure that suspected terrorists are prosecuted or extradited. In some instances, regional or subregional extradition or mutual legal assistance treaties in criminal matters such as terrorism have already been adopted. Due to what is often a shared perception of the threat posed by transnational crime at regional and subregional levels, these bodies may have a comparative advantage in getting their member states to strengthen their coordination and cooperation in combating crimes that might be associated with terrorism.

Although Security Council Resolution n.1373 and other UN resolutions recognize the “close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms trafficking, and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potential deadly materials,” the United Nations has been slow to address these issues in a coherent manner. RSRs, which often tend to have more homogenous memberships and more clearly defined
common interests than the broader membership of the United Nations, may also be able to contribute to efforts to counterterrorism on the Internet and respond to the Strategy’s call for greater international and regional coordination in this area, which has proven difficult to achieve at the international level.

Additionally, as a result of the relationships, they have often forged with local and transnational companies in their regions and their understanding of the business practices and culture of these companies, some regional bodies can play a leading role in stimulating the development of public/private sector partnerships between their members and multinational companies. These public/private partnerships in areas such as preventing cyber terrorism can make important contributions to enhancing the implementation of Pillar II of the Strategy.

**Pillar III: Measures to build states’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the UN system**

RSRs can play important roles in both the facilitation and delivery of capacity building assistance. They can help identify capacity gaps in their region or subregion and disseminate among their members information regarding relevant bilateral and multilateral capacity-building programs, with a view to, among other things, fostering donor coordination. In addition, these bodies could help ensure that the regional or subregional Strategy-related capacity needs are presented to the relevant UN bodies (or perhaps the Task Force working group focusing on integrated implementation of the UN Strategy) in a coherent manner. This can be achieved, for example, by developing a unified set of regional or subregional priorities and technical assistance requests that cut across a range of Strategy-related areas, helping to ensure that the United Nations better understands the needs and
priorities of countries in the region or subregion and enhancing the communication between the United Nations and the relevant geographical area.

These bodies also offer platforms for training seminars conducted by bilateral or multilateral donors, the provision of assistance, and, more broadly, supporting the development of regional, subregional, as well as national capacity. For example, they can endorse the counterterrorism-related standards and best practices developed by international functional bodies in different fields, many of which are explicitly referred to in the UN Strategy, including aviation, port, and border security, and organize workshops with technical experts from relevant functional bodies to ensure that local officials are provided with the training and skills needed to implement these standards and best practices. In addition, RSRs have an important role to play in offering tailored, regional expertise to complement the more general legislative drafting assistance that the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is providing states to enable them to join and implement the sixteen international counterterrorism-related conventions and protocols. Finally, if given a mandate and adequate resources, RSRs can offer institutional infrastructure that can maintain the necessary focus on Strategy-related issues long after assistance providers have departed, to help ensure the long-term sustainability of these capacity-building programs and that the assistance is actually implemented by the states.

Pillar IV: Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism

Grounding the Strategy, and all global counterterrorism efforts, in the context of human rights and the rule of law is one of its significant achievements. RSRs can contribute in a number of ways to furthering this cross-cutting theme. RSRs can encourage their members to “accept the competence of the international and relevant human rights monitoring bodies,” as called for in the Strategy, support and cooperate with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR), and support and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur as well as other relevant UN special procedures mandate holders. For example, they can invite the Special Rapporteur to conduct regional or subregional visits and cohost workshops with the Special Rapporteur and OHCHR, focusing on the human rights framework in the Strategy. In addition, they can work together where possible to ensure the human rights-based approach to combating terrorism that underpins the Strategy is reflected in all counterterrorism-related declarations, statements, or other documents issued by each regional and subregional body.

A number of regions or subregions have adopted their own human rights conventions or charters, thereby placing universal human rights obligations within the relevant regional context and helping to ensure a shared regional interpretation of those obligations. Human rights bodies have been established in some regions to oversee implementation of these conventions or charters by their members. Such bodies can offer members guidance on best practices and a forum for sharing them among countries that may face many of the same challenges. They can work to improve the capacity of their members by propagating standards of conduct and providing training for security, law enforcement, and judicial officials engaged in combating terrorism. In particular, regional human rights commissions and courts can play an important role in interpreting human rights obligations for states and investigating and shedding light on abuses, providing for recourse above the national level. RSRs can serve as fora for conducting peer reviews and other monitoring mechanisms to ensure that national counterterrorism efforts comply with international and regional human rights standards, and they can apply political pressure on local states in cases where they do not.

Finally, RSRs can contribute to the development and maintenance of effective, rule of law-based criminal justice systems within their member states, which the Strategy highlights as being critical to implementing a human rights-based approach to countering terrorism. The Strategy recognizes that many states will require assistance in developing and maintaining such a system. Different parts of the United Nations, including UNODC, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and OHCHR will likely assume leading roles in providing this assistance. As in other capacity-building areas relevant to the Strategy, however, RSRs have a key role to play in offering the necessary expertise and other
resources, providing a forum for interaction with civil society to ensure that the assistance being offered is tailored to the particular needs in the region, and ensuring its sustainability.

- Can RSRs contribute to the development and maintenance of effective, rule of law-based criminal justice systems within their member states, which the Strategy highlights as being critical to implementing a human rights-based approach to countering terrorism?

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Strengthening the role of the United Nations in fighting terrorism


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