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Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts.
Aviation and Civilian Security Amidst a Rise of Suspected International Terrorism

Report of the UA-MUNC Secretary-General

Part I: Introduction

Civilian and aviation security affect every state and every society. The complex challenges associated with ensuring human security are managed in different ways across the globe. In the status quo, challenges surrounding civilian and aviation security are also evolving. Unfortunately, terrorism has become an increasingly alarming and frequent occurrence. Following the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, the issue of terrorism gained unparalleled international attention. Other incidents of terrorism include attacks in Paris, Istanbul, Moscow, and more. Terrorism can be manifested in a variety of forms, from lone-wolf attacks to those organized by global terrorist organizations. Terrorism is a condemnable practice that disproportionately affects civilian populations, who are the intended victims of such attacks. Terrorist attacks also propagate side effects such as religious hatred, further radicalism, social unrest etc.

On the other hand, travelling via flights has never been more convenient or affordable due to expansion in the travel industry and the proliferation of aviation technology. The increase in civilian access to aviation has resulted in unprecedented forms of human mobility across the world. From tourist visits to the pursuit of economic opportunity and political freedom, civilian usage of aviation technology has quickly gained increased prominence over the past several decades. The unfortunate reality is that as travel by air becomes easier, so do the means to commit global acts of terror. 9/11 is an example of terrorist hijackings of a civilian flight. Post- 9/11, many counter-terrorism measures have been taken on a national level, especially in the United States.

The topic of terrorism and civilian security is very complex, and also holds significance in other areas as well. The threat of terrorism sparks new debates regarding rights to privacy, the root causes of radicalism, the rights of civilians living in terrorist-occupied regions, preventing and disincentivizing recruitment etc. In the context of the United Nations, this committee will aim to seek global and coordinated responses to the threat of terrorism, keeping in mind the 2030 Sustainable Development goals. This topic is imperative for the peace and security of every member state in the United Nations, and the Security Council is tasked with this crucial mandate to combat terrorism today.

This Secretary General Report is intended to serve as a reference point for the delegates of the Security Council (University Level) at the United Ambassadors Model United Nations Conference 2017. This report discusses potential solutions to the issue, root causes of radicalization, past international efforts, and current initiatives aimed at the protection of civilians from terrorism. The report will conclude with several questions that prompt delegates to conduct further research. It is important to note that this report was written with the intention of providing some background to the immensely complex issues surrounding aviation and civilian security in the context of global terrorism. Therefore, this report should not be taken as a substitute for delegate research.

Part II: Topic Background

<u>Definition of Terrorism</u>

The legal definition of terrorism is contested. It varies across different member states, but although there are many understandings and definitions of terrorism at the national and international levels, the UK Terrorism Act of 2000 offers a broad definition that may be a constructive reference. Terrorism is:

"The use or threat of action designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public, or a section of the public; made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause; and it involves or causes: serious violence against a person, serious damage to a property, a threat to a person's life, a serious risk to the health and safety of the public, or a serious interference with or disruption to an electronic system."[1]

This crux of defining terrorism lies in the violence inflicted on civilians and the innocent. Therefore, any attack on civilian and aviation security would qualify as terrorism due to the indiscriminate violence used. Today, often claims to have a racial, spiritual, or social paradigm. This identity or ideology is then used to recruit and radicalize individuals, who proceed to execute terror attacks. Today, emergent senses of nationalism and religion based on the exploitation of hatred and past injustices produce terrorists who claim to be representing a particular community or nation.

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[1] UK the Terrorism Act, 2000

Past Terrorist Attacks

One of the most deadly terrorist attacks of the 21st century is the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. The attack resulted directly from two civilian plane hijackings committed by members of Al Qaeda. However, aviation terrorism has a much longer history than 9/11, when it became especially well-known to the world. For instance, on July 22th, 1968, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hijacked Israeli El Al Flight 426 from London to Tel Aviv via Rome.[2] The PFLP held several Israeli passengers hostage, and used them as a bargaining chip for the release of Arab prisoners.[3]

Another example of terrorism is the London bombings on July 7th, 2005, sometimes referred to as the 7/7 terrorist attacks. This was a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings in central London which targeted the public transport system during rush hour. On the morning of July 7th, four extremists, claiming to be Islamists, separately detonated three bombs in quick succession aboard London Underground trains across the city, and a fourth on a double-decker bus in Tavistock Square. Fifty-two people were killed and over 700 more were injured in the attacks, making it one of the deadliest terrorist incidents in British history, as well as the country's first ever Islamist-identifying suicide attack.[4]

London was also the victim of another terrorist attack earlier this year. On 22 March 2017, a British man, Khalid Masood (52), committed wave of murder around Westminster Bridge and Parliament Square, killing four and injuring dozens.[5] Masood plowed his car into a crowd on the iconic Westminster Bridge before ramming his vehicle into a gate outside Parliament and fatally stabbing a police officer.[6] ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, calling Masood its "soldier."[7]

Sadly, the aforementioned examples reflect the atrocities committed under terrorism. Furthermore, the severity and devastating impacts of terrorism mean that governments are tasked with the demand for more robust measures in order to protect civilians. Terrorism is a critical threat to global peace and security, and its international scope calls upon the mandate of the UNSC to respond.

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[2] http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2012/12/daily-chart-0
[3] https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism/
[4] Goodhart, David. *The British Dream*. Atlantic Books, London (2013): p. 222
[5] https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/03/23/london-terror-attack/99524382/
[6] ibid
[7] ibid

The Security Council - Mandate and Jurisdiction

The United Nations Security Council was created and ratified in 1945 under the UN Charter. It was designated as one of the key bodies responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Among its fifteen seats, five are recognized as permanent members: USA, Great Britain, France, People's Republic of China, and Russia. The additional ten members are elected on two-year terms, and the seats are distributed by region.[8] The number of non-permanent members was expanded from six to ten in 1965.[9] Currently, the Security Council is composed of the P5 and ten non-permanent members: Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, Uruguay.[10]

The Security Council serves many crucial functions in the United Nations, including but not limited to dispatching peacekeeping operations, imposing economic sanctions, and mandating arms inspections[11]. It provides a space for diplomatic mediation when major global crises of threats to peace and security arise. In the words of General Assembly Resolution 60/1, paragraph 9:

"…peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being" and "development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing."[12]

This resolution reaffirms the core fundamentals of the United Nations, which include peace, security (with the use of force and intervention as a last resort), development, human rights. As an institution that works to produce proactive solutions to global injustices and devastation, terrorism is one of the most important topics on the UNSC's agenda. In particular, resolution 1267 focuses on combatting the increased frequency of terrorism-based violence and recruitment, sanctioning terrorist leaders and entities linked to Al Qaeda and the Taliban.[13] Counter-terrorism is also inextricably linked to the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is an international problem that must be solved by effective partnerships and global initiatives.

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[8] "Current Members" http://www.un.org/en/sc/members 2015.
[9] "The UN Security Council". United Nations Foundation. 2016
[10] http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/
[11] "Security Council Issues" https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/index-of-countries-on-the-security-council-agenda.html
[12] *(General Assembly Resolution 60/1, paragraph 9).*
[13] ibid

Part III: International Action

Preventing Technological Innovation in Terrorism

As a result of modern advances in technological innovation and media platforms, the ease at which information is accessible has been taken advantage of by terrorist groups. Recruitment over social media has become common practice, and often, online propaganda is effective at radicalizing and recruiting internet users from around the world. Modern communication technology has also made it much easier to proliferate extremist views and spread the ideas of terrorism.

Technological advances are also a cause for concern relating to aviation-targeted terrorism. On the flip side, as technological innovation creates increasing concern for the destructive capacity of terrorism, technology has also aided the development of efforts to improve aviation and civilian security. Examples of this can be seen in IMPACT and ITU, two institutions that operate on a global level to eliminate terrorist attacks. These interventions aim to lower the risk of terrorism through airport screenings, among other security measures.

IMPACT, or the International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT), is a key partner of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and a specialized agency that works with the United Nations. IMPACT was formed in 2008, and its headquarters in Malaysia offer cyber-security services to UN member states. On the other hand, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Since its inception, the ITU has been an intergovernmental public-private partnership supported by the UN. The ITU's membership includes 193 Member States, around 700 companies, and international and regional telecommunication entities. Under the Cooperation Agreement signed at the World Summit for Information Society (WSIS) Forum in 2011, IMPACT was tasked by ITU with the responsibility to provide member states with access to expertise, facilities, and resources to effectively address cyber threats. Furthermore, IMPACT was required to assist UN agencies in protecting their information and communications technology infrastructure.[14] Other forms of global cooperation include services offered by the Global Response Centre, the Centre For Policy and International Cooperation etc.

Cyber-threats continue to evolve, as the risk is further compounded by increasingly connected societies that transcend geographical and physical borders. Much like aviation security, the transnational linkages that make the internet and flights possible also make it difficult to eradicate the online presence of terrorism. The internet is frequently used to coordinate terror attacks form various corners of the world, and combating cyber-terrorism is a key component of maintaining international peace and security. However, despite the necessity to monitor the virtual proliferation of terrorism, state actors must also consider the privacy rights entitled to their citizens. The United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 32/16 titled "The Promotion, Protection, and Enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet" addresses the issue of online rights in detail.

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[14] Impact Alliance. About Us. http://www.impact-alliance.org/aboutus/mission-&-vision.html

The Role of Public-Private Partnership

On September 8th, 2011, IMPACT formally became the cybersecurity executing arm of the UN. As described above, the ITU-IMPACT relationship is a unique one. This was the world's first comprehensive public-private partnership against cyber threats. ITU-IMPACT serves as a global platform to bring together governments, industry, academia, international organisations, and think-tanks. These stakeholders collaborate to achieve the Global Cyber Security Agenda (GCA), which is an international cybersecurity framework that emphasizes international cooperation and sharing strategies to enhance confidence in an information society. The GCA focuses on following five main areas of cybersecurity:

1. Legal measures
2. Technical and procedural measures
3. Organisational structures
4. Capacity-building
5. International cooperation

Aviation Security Standards

After 9/11, the United States responded to the potential threat of aviation terrorism by creating the TSA, or the Transportation Security Administration in 2001. The TSA is the first federal agency dedicated to the regulation of aviation travel for security purposes, and is an example of an American response to the post-9/11 world order. The logic of the agency is captured in the following quote by then-Transportation Norman Mineta: "only a single federal agency would better protect air travel than the private companies who operated under contract to single airlines or groups of airlines that used a given terminal facility".[15]

The TSA was charged with developing policies to protect U.S. transportation, especially with respect to airport security and the prevention of aircraft hijacking. The establishment of America's first Aviation and travel security federal administration has set a precedent for other nations to improve their domestic policies. For many in the international community, the establishment of the TSA also raised questions around the balance between security and privacy in the aviation security. The TSA also had the international effect of setting a global standard to pre-emptively eliminate the risk of terrorism.

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[15] Landy, Frank J.; Conte, Jeffery M. (December 26, 2012). Work in the 21st Century: An Introduction to Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Wiley; 4 edition. p. 263. ISBN 9781118291207

Part IV: Stakeholders and Regional Political Interests

Regional Political Alliances

Regional actors are crucial in the fight against terrorism. Regional responses and alliances are comprised of states who enter multilateral agreements on security, trade etc. Groups such as the African Union, European Union, NATO, and the Arab League each has unique governance structures and approaches to diplomacy. Regional acts are key to counter-terrorism today, especially institutions such as NATO and the Arab League.

NATO's membership includes a wide range of Western European, North American, Nordic and Baltic states. These countries have used their collective resources to combat global instability, and NATO's inception as a collective security alliances gives it ability intervention military when necessarily. NATO also has the advantages in its widespread networks of alliances, which enhances its capacity to effectively deliver humanitarian aid and interventions. For instance, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attack, NATO invoked its collective defence clause (Article 5) for the first time in response to terrorist attacks.[16] NATO's actions have also held symbolic significance in raising awareness about aviation safety and counter-terrorism globally.

NATO's Counter-Terrorism Policy Guidelines focus on three main areas: awareness, capabilities and engagement:
1. "Firstly, NATO develops new capabilities and technologies to tackle the terrorist threat and to manage its consequences.
2. NATO cooperates with partners and international organisations to leverage the full potential of each stakeholder engaged in the global counter-terrorism effort.
3. NATO supports the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL by providing NATO AWACS data to improve situational awareness".[17]

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[16] http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_77646.htm

[17] ibid

Radical Ideologies and Organizations

Over the past century, the world has witnessed a surge of extremist ideologies in the name of religion and/or nationalism. These ideologies deliberately aim to radicalize vulnerable, underprivileged, uneducated communities who see opposition to the state as a means of survival. For example, during the conflict between Irish and British forces in the 1920s, the rise of the Irish Republic Army (IRA), is remembered for terrorizing guerilla warfare tactics in the name of Irish Nationalism. In the US, the white nationalist movement Ku Klux Klan, or KKK, was founded on racially-charged hatred.

Both the KKK and the IRA claim Judeo-Christian roots. However the violent actions committed by these fundamentalist groups do not truly reflect religious values. By recruiting vulnerable members of their communities, both the KKK and the IRA hold deplorable political agendas. Today, a parallel trend is seen in the Middle Eastern community. As a result of historical intervention, domestic instability, and rights-based injustices, terrorism has also utilized Islamist language to justify their cause. Groups like ISIS and Boko Haram share the same disregard for civilian security demonstrated by the KKK and the IRA.

As mentioned early in this report, resolution 1260 of the UN Security Council has tasked the institution with eliminating the threat of terrorism. However, in addition to eradicating terrorism, members of the Security Council membership have played a role in actively fostering the operations of terrorist organizations, both intentionally and unintentionally providing resources to terrorist organizations. From mismanaged aid to deliberately arming radical groups, the UNSC should also examine how its international efforts have contributed to the types of terrorism the world sees today.

Part V. Potential Solutions

Examining the Root Causes of Terrorism

When examining the root causes of terrorism, one can deduce solutions that dissuade individuals from joining terrorist organizations. Some academic research has found a correlation between the lack of access to basic human rights and the inclination to be susceptible to radicalization. For instance, geographers have observed that the proliferation of extremism is especially common in regions affected by famine and food shortages. By focusing on basic human necessities such as food security, stakeholders can decrease the need for individuals to join terrorist groups as a means of survival. To an extent, this also explains why radicalization is especially pertinent in conflict zones and countries with consistent periods of political unrest. In order to address terrorism at its roots, member states of the UNSC can consider sustainable development as a long-term global effort that will reduce the prospects of radicalization.

The United Nations is already committed to international initiatives which aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030. Access to food and water, the eradication of poverty, and access to health services are all factors that add to the marginalization experienced by individuals who are susceptible to the persuasion of terrorist groups. Most importantly, SDG 4 – access to education - is also key to eliminating the root causes of extremism. Education is empowering in many different ways, and thus dispels the perception that individuals only have the option of joining a terrorist organization to pursue a sense of value and community. Education also shrinks the gap between different genders and classes, thus addressing the fundamental lack of resources and opportunity for socio-economically disadvantaged individuals. Member states of the Security Council can consider the solution education programs in communities known to host extremism, and provide targeted solutions to combat the influence of terrorist propaganda.

Crucial Need for further Action

It is clear that the United Nations Security Council must continue to combat terrorism. Under SDG 17, building effective partnerships to address global issues is more crucial than ever in the context of global terrorism. Under SDG 16, various actors must also aim to build peaceful, just, and strong institutions that can effectively combat terrorism. Through diplomatic engagement and coordinated responses, the UNSC has a unique ability in the international community to improve civilian and aviation security.

Part VII. Key Questions

- ❖ What role does the private sector play in the aviation industry and in cyber-security? What role should private actors play on a global level, and how can the UNSC provide institutional support to this end?
- ❖ How can the UN further improve access to quality education, and thus decrease the prospects of radicalization? What is the role of the UNSC under this framework, and how can other types of actors e.g. NGOs participate in this collaborative effort?
- ❖ How can the UNSC learn from national initiatives such as the TSA, and implement such practices on an international scale?
- ❖ How does this issue relate to the Sustainable Development Goals?
- ❖ How can the UNSC strengthen aviation and civilian security in the face of rising terrorism? How is this different or unique from state or grassroots-level initiatives?
- ❖ How can regional organizations play a role in combating terrorism, and is it within the mandate or spirit of the UNSC to coordinate with such institutions?
- ❖ What are your country's current policies on civilian and aviation security? What has your country been doing on a local, national, regional, and global scale?
- ❖ How can member states deal with extreme nationalism and religious fundamentalism?
- ❖ Most importantly, on a pragmatic basis, what can the UNSC do?

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