Security Council (SC)

Topic A:

Limiting threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

I. Introduction of topic

Terrorism is an unlawful act which aims to spread fear and panic among civilians. It includes acts of kidnapping, bombing, violence, riots, burglaries and more. The issue of terrorism poses a major threat to both international peace and security, affecting not only individual countries but also global stability. In 2019, terrorist attacks led to 20,000 deaths worldwide, it caused around 1 in every 2000 deaths. For a long time, the international community has struggled to address the challenges of terrorism, which not only cause loss of life but also destabilise regions, interfere with economic development and evoke uncertainty. Terrorism, in all forms, undermines the core principles of our societies and challenges the UN's values of peace, justice and human dignity. Although terrorist attacks are rare globally, they are common and on the rise in some countries.

II.   Definition of key terms

Terrorism: Criminal acts against civilians with the intention of wreaking havoc, provoking fear and causing physical damage to both people and infrastructures.

International Peace and Security: Measures taken by states and organizations such as the United Nations to ensure a safe and secure world for communities worldwide.

Radicalisation: Process in which an individual or group shows support or engages in extremist ideologies and organizations.

Counter Terrorism: Political or military activities intended to prevent terrorism.

State Sponsorship of Terrorism: Terrorist violence carried out with support from state governments to terrorist groups and/or organizations.

Terrorist Organization: A group of individuals directly or indirectly participating in, planning, preparing, or fostering terrorist acts.

United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: A document, revised biyearly, containing the Member States' counter-terrorism priorities.

III. Background information

Since the end of the Cold War, the threat posed by terrorism has changed significantly over the years. While terrorist attacks have occurred over the course of history, it has begun to intensify in the late 20th century, particularly with the rise of groups such as Al-Qaeda, Hamas, and ISIS. The attacks of September 11th, 2001 in the United States were a critical moment which permanently changed the perspective on terrorism. Since then, terrorism has grown to be seen as a threat to international peace and security rather than a regional or national problem.

The United Nations Security Council has been actively involved in addressing the issue of terrorism, focusing specifically on enhancing international cooperation, preventing the spread of violent extremist ideologies and targeting terrorist financing. Multiple resolutions have been adopted which shaped the global response to terrorism such as the Resolution 1373 (2001) and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) (more information in Previous resolutions and decisions).

The challenges of terrorism very between states. Many face concerns of the radicalisation of individuals, specifically among vulnerable populations. Social media has also posed a difficulty for authorities, especially when used for recruitment and propaganda purposes. Moreover, non-state actors, such as terrorist groups take advantage of weaknesses in state sovereignty to perform cross-border operations. Although international collaboration is key, national interest makes coordination difficult.

IV. **Major countries and agencies involved**

United States:

The United States has been involved in multiple military and diplomatic operations aimed at deconstructing terrorist organisations, particularly after the September 11th attacks. US agencies like the FBI, CIA and Department of Homeland Security have played important roles in counter-terrorism

ISIS:

A Salafi-jihadist group that has conducted terrorist attacks worldwide, resulting in thousands killed or injured. ISIS mainly attacks military targets and civilian defense forces in Iraq and Syria. In addition the group also attacks government personnel and infrastructure. Although ISIS has lost many of its leaders and territories, the group remains capable of running operations in not only Syria and Iraq but also Africa, Asia and Europe.

Hamas:

A Sunni Islamist political organisation based in Palestinian territories, committed to armed attacks against Israel. The most recent attack began on the 7th of October 2023, when the group launched a surprise attack against Israel leading to nearly 1,200 casualties. Hamas primarily operates in the Gaza Strip but also in refugee camps in Lebanon, Egypt, Qatar and Turkey.

Iran:

Iran has been declared a State Sponsor of Terrorism in 1984 and has consistently shown its support for terrorist activities and groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas and more. Through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF,) Iran has been able to provide support to terrorist organisations and create instability in the region.

Arab League:

A regional organisation made up of 22 Arab countries. The Arab League has worked with the United States and together have come forward on finding manners to suppress terrorism. Although the League has ceased labelling Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation, their fight against other groups such as ISIS or al-Qaeda is still prominent.

V. Precious resolutions and decisions

Resolution 1373 (2001)

This resolution states Member States are prohibited from providing safe haven to any individual who finances, supports, plans or commits to any sort of terrorist attack. This prohibition requires Member States to undertake measures, including legislative measures on jurisdiction and criminalisation.

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res_1373_english.pdf

<u>UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006)</u>

A unique instrument adopted by the General Assembly to enhance international efforts to counter terrorism. The Strategy is made up of 4 pillars: addressing conditions contributing to the spread of terrorism, building capacity, preventing and tackling terrorism and lastly ensuring human rights are respected.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy

VI.   Possible solutions

1. Introducing temporary security and management controls at state borders is critical for preventing cross-border terrorism across land, air and sea. This would include no only suspected terrorists but also arms, explosives, goods and ammunition trade that could be used for terrorist actions.

2. Invest in programs to address the root causes of radicalisation, such as poverty and lack of education. These programs could focus directly on more vulnerable communities.

3. Implement policies to terminate the presence of terrorist organizations on social media. This is crucial especially considering the growing role of encrypted communication and networking.

4. Creating frameworks to identify and block financial webs supporting terrorism is another possible solution. This includes monitoring NGOs, charities and financial institutions that may be hijacked by terrorists.

VII. Works cited and Useful sources

"Countering Terrorism." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/global-issues/countering-terrorism. Accessed 12 Jan. 2025.

"Terrorism Essay for Students and Teacher: 500+ Words Essay." *Toppr*, 27 Nov. 2019, www.toppr.com/guides/essays/terrorism-essay/#:~:text=Terrorism%20is%20an%20act%2C C%20which,nothing%20to%20do%20with%20religion.

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