

Forum: Disarmament and International Security Committee

Issue: Improving International Efforts in Preventing Terrorist Attacks

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Position: Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Nicholas Papandreou and it is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to the Disarmament and International Security Committee of the 8th annual session of the Platon School Model United Nations. Currently, I am a 17-year-old IB2 student at the Hellenic American Educational Foundation, with the prospect of studying International Relations.

I started MUN almost two years ago and have participated in conferences both here in Greece and abroad. Throughout these two years, Model United Nations has kept reinforcing itself as an essential part of my life. It has even become the career I want to pursue, that is becoming a delegate in the United Nations. PSMUN will be my 10th conference and my fourth-time chairing. In the Disarmament Committee, we are expected to solve issues that are vital to maintain peace, stability, and security in the entire world. During these three days, we will have to come up with solutions to problems of today's world that will make our planet a better and safer place. Aggelos, Kassiani, and I will make sure to make this conference an unforgettable experience.

The first step in order for that to happen is to make sure that every one of us has gathered enough knowledge on each specific subject so as to be able to present feasible solutions in the resolutions that we will debate on. This study guide will act as a guideline for your research, defining the key terms of the topic as well as presenting useful information that will make you familiar with the issue of "Improving International Efforts in Preventing Terrorist Attacks". However, this guide is merely a guideline. It is highly advisable for you to conduct your own research as well, diving deeper into the issues and stances of your countries regarding this topic. Nevertheless, should any issues arise and need any help prior to the start of the conference, please do not hesitate to send me an email at nickpapandreou2@gmail.com. I am always at your disposal and will do my best to assist you. I wish you a pleasant & unforgettable conference!

Sincerely yours,
Nicholas Papandreou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

On September 11, 2001, the world was introduced to one of the most violent series of terrorist attacks. Three aircraft, hijacked by Al Qaeda members crashed on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, taking the lives of almost 3000 people. Moments later, another, fourth, plane crash landed on the fields of Philadelphia, after a revolution by the passengers to prevent the plane from crash landing on the White House.

The world emerged radically different than how it was before. The entire way of thinking and culture of the United States of America changed with the at the time President George Bush, also known as 43 from the fact that he is the 43rd President of the USA, declaring the War on Terror, which led to the invasion of Iraq in order to tackle the terrorist organizations that supposedly attacked the United States.

This move has been criticized by the international community since, instead of seeing a reduction in the terrorist attacks that took place after that, the world, especially after 2014, has seen a sharp increase of attacks in the name of religion and in the

name of waging war against the United States. In fact, the issue has been compounded since such terrorist attacks have not been targeted to the USA, but in countries of Europe. European countries are suffering due to the moves of the United States, with the latter being influenced much



Image 1 - 43 Declares the War on Terror

less than the countries of the EU.

At the same time, the intervention of the United States in Iraq has also triggered a war in the Middle East and has created the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria which has caused turmoil in the entire Middle East, with civil wars being fought in the name of religion.

Countries around the world have been forced to take measures to limit attacks on their soil and to prevent more deaths of citizens due to bombing attacks, car attacks, and gunmen. Just recently, Christmas celebrations in France were watched by

100.000 policemen and in the USA Times Square was encircled by police roadblocks, checkpoints, and armed officers.

The debate that has been going on is at its highest point, with some people arguing in favor of continuing the attacks against ISIS so as to limit attacks in the long run by destroying ISIS now, and others arguing to let ISIS be as it is so as to not cause any further anger against the West and thus limit attacks.

Thus, international efforts can either be improved by proposing more attacks against ISIS and more short-term protection of each country's land with the hope that in the long run attacks will decrease or by ceasing operations all-together.

The United Nations has taken action on the issue by forming the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism through the adoption of GA Resolution 71/291 on 15 June 2017. Thus, most discussions on this topic must take account the work of this office. Each country has a different view on the topic and each delegate must also be taking account the stance of his/her country's citizens to ensure optimal results.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Terrorist: "A person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims."¹

The word terrorist is commonly used but generally not allowed in MUN. Non-state actors is the official word usage in the UN"

Terrorist attack: "A surprise attack involving the deliberate use of violence against civilians in the hop of attaining political or religious aims"²

¹ <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/terrorist>

² www.webster-dictionary.org/definition/terrorist%20attack

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Background

The United Nations, even though it is an international organization, has tried to assist nations with fighting the spreading of terrorism and has made an effort to adopt legislature that would be used as a platform for nations to base their effort to prevent any further terrorist attacks. As has been previously mentioned, the efforts of the UN in the field of terrorism started with the dawn of the 21st century, and, more specifically, after the 9/11 attacks. 9/11 wasn't remembered just because 3000 people died in the attacks. 9/11 shocked the United States because it showed to the American people that their country was no longer safe from outside threats.

After World War 2, terrorism was ever increasingly used to further a political cause. Terrorist organizations mainly rely on causes such as restoring the past glory of a certain region. For example, the IRA, Ireland's revolutionary movement which was formed in 1922 and disbanded in 1969 had the aim for Ireland to achieve independence from the United Kingdom, a restoration of the past. Other causes for the acts of organizations have been religious, with Shia and Sunnis clashing between them, but also Muslims attacking nations which want to intervene in their affairs.

The USA had passed two world wars, emerging victorious, without a single bullet being fired in home territory. The USA had not been touched either by the German Empire or the Third Reich. On the contrary, the USA took the war to Europe, by sending troops and material across the Atlantic. Back home, life did not change nearly as much as it did in the United Kingdom and specifically London. The American government and people thought that their country was safe.

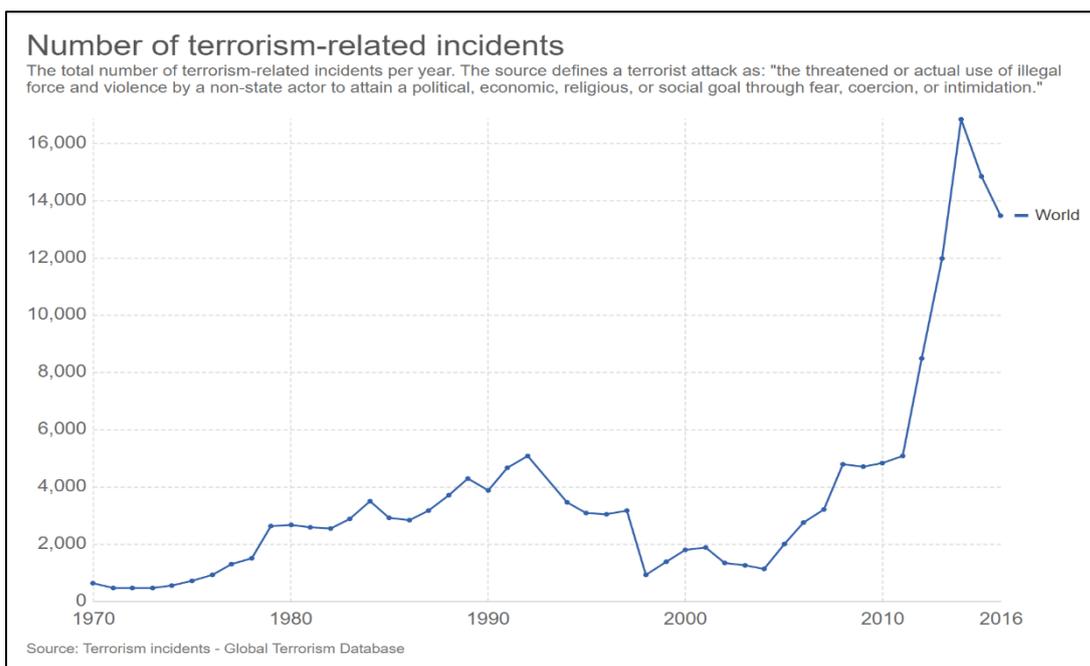


Image 2 - Fatalities from Terrorist Attacks - <https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism/>

All that changed in 9/11, with the threat no longer coming from known enemies. They did not exist on a map. They were not nations, they were individuals. American people looked around them and feared everyone. The US could no longer see a face, a uniform, a flag. The world had become more opaque, and terror came from the shadows. The US did no longer feel safe.³

Bush, Obama, and Trump have based their actions taken against ISIS and Al Qaeda on such a fear. They mention that they are taking this action so as for the events that took place in 9/11 to not take place again. Americans have followed such decisions, and have backed their Presidents.

The same trend has held in the entire world, with a terrorist attack taking place, which sparked outcry by the public and the world, then leading to action taken by politicians in the form of military action (bombings, invasion

Measures Taken to Prevent Terrorism

Measures taken in order to prevent terrorism have been spread across to plains: The first one has to do with airline hijackings and the second one is related to terrorism on the ground.

Hijackings:

The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)⁴ adopted a series of regulations in order to combat any further hijacking attempts. Screening methods were improved by introduction regulations that stated that:

- jackets and shoes have to be removed during screening
- an ID has to be shown upon arrival to the check-in desk to ensure a match
- all baggage has to be screened
- all liquids are banned on aircraft
- advanced screening equipment must be introduced
- all aircraft doors are to be reinforced with steel and they are to be kept locked during the entirety of the flight; cameras were also introduced outside the cockpit
- crew are to be trained in firearm usage and a firearm must always be present in cockpits
- more marshals are to be put in aircraft to ensure safety

³Skyfall, Judy Dench Courtroom Scene

⁴ <https://www.faa.gov/>

All the above measures have led to a drastic decrease in the number of hijackings and fatalities in the aviation industry and it is now extremely safe for someone to be on a plane.

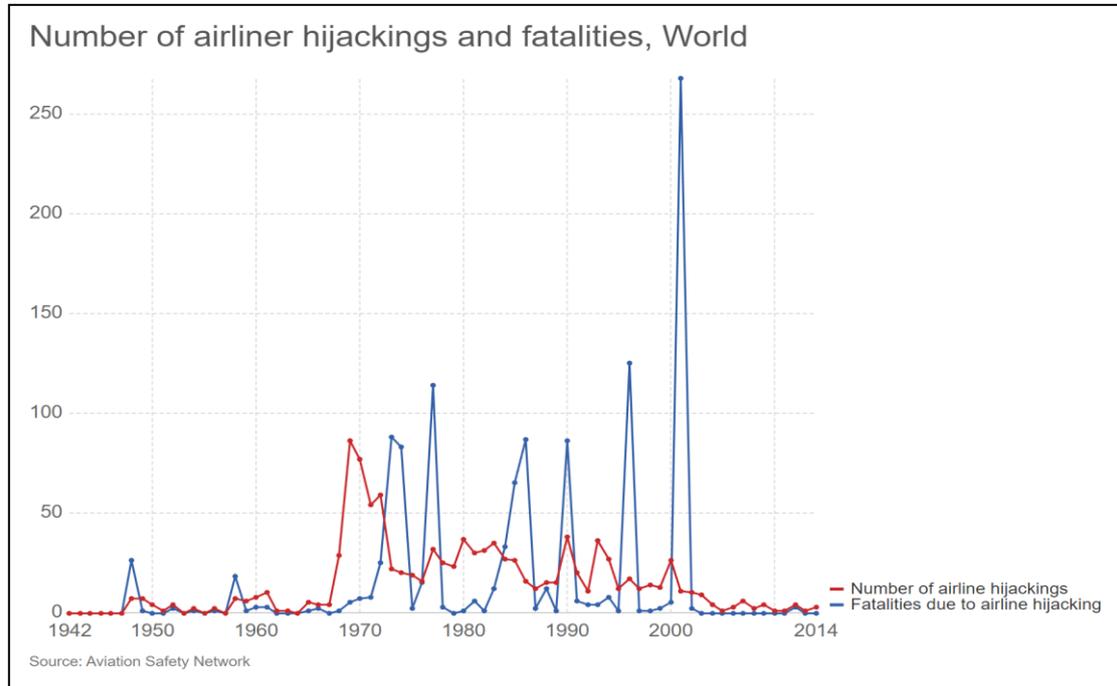


Image 3 - Number of Hijackings and Fatalities - <https://ourworldindata.org>

Terrorism on the Ground:

This entire category has to start with an analysis on the War on Terror, which is either claimed to have sparked a period of détente when it comes to attacks or, by others, to have done quite the opposite.

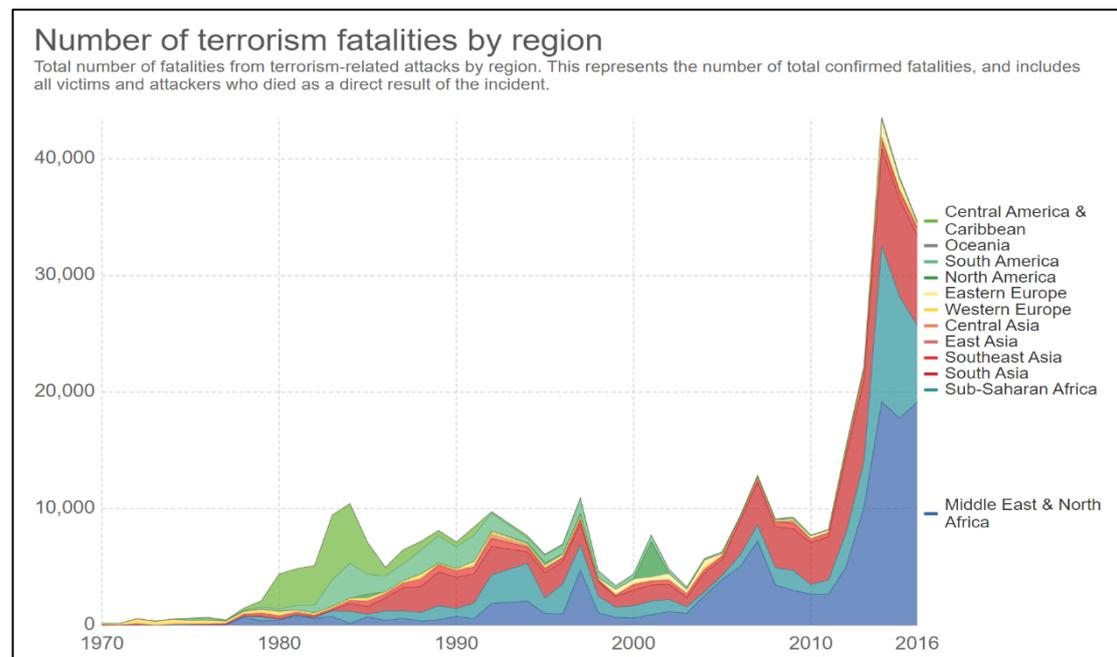


Image 4 - Terrorism Fatalities by Region - <https://ourworldindata.org>

The facts state that there has been a drastic increase in the number of fatalities due to terrorist attacks. The United States did achieve its goal of dismantling Al Qaeda by capturing or killing many of its high-profile members, with the highlight being the



*Image 5 - Barack Obama Announces the Death of Osama bin Laden -
<https://petapixel.com/assets/uploads/2011/05/obama.jpg>*

death of Osama bin Laden during the Obama Presidency.

However, it seems that the War on Terror created ISIS, due to anger of the Muslims of having foreign countries intervene in their own affairs. Thus, it seems as if the War on Terror worked counterintuitively, in the exact opposite way it was intended to. However, this raises the question of the tradeoff between having a Middle East dominated by extremist groups that would possibly continue the activities they had been carrying out, just like 9/11 and of the status quo that is currently in place. It is hard for one to base a judgement on this question on a hypothesis of the situation in the Middle East had the War on Terror not taken place, but it can be stated as a fact that such an intervention, and the intervention that has been continuing after that in the form of bombing and training of Iraqi and Afghani troops, is angering the Islamists and may be causing further hatred against the countries intervening, which leads to further terrorist activities.

Apart from the War on Terror, each nation has adopted its own measures to protect itself, ranging from increasing the active personnel of law enforcement agencies, banning travel from Muslim countries, placing an abundance of surveillance cameras, etc., moves which have been criticized for infringing upon the human rights of each person to privacy. With the Snowden incident, it has been made public that nobody

is safe from the eye of the NSA, and every agency – national or international - for that matter, alluding to the society described in George Orwell’s *1984*.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism:

It was established through the adoption of UNGA Resolution 71/291 on June of 2017. Its head is Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov. The Office has five main functions as defined by the UN⁵:

1. provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system;
2. enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
3. strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States;
4. improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts; and
5. ensure that due priority is given to counterterrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

United States of America:

The USA have been the first country to have been hit by a serious terrorist attack that caused the death of thousands. This acted as a wake-up call to the US government to start operations in the Middle East in order to eliminate such organizations by waging the “War on Terror⁶”. Although commonly thought that the war on



Image 6 - World Trade Center Under Attack - Time.com

⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/>

⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/war-on-terrorism>

terror involved Iraq only, the USA got involved in the affairs of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Yemen, and elsewhere and its military budget skyrocketed. The operation led to the arrest of hundreds of suspected terrorists around the world, the toppling of the Taliban, and the closure of camps where terrorists trained their members. The War on Terror has been criticized for creating Al Qaeda and for being used as a cover up to further the interests of the USA in the region. Although such an operation has ceased, the Trump administration has enforced a range of bans on the travel of people from such regions with the justification to prevent any other attacks.

French Republic:

France was the first country in the European Union to suffer from a big hit of ISIS. On January 2015, two gunmen who allegedly had ties to ISIS forced their way in the headquarters of French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and killed twelve people, including cartoonists, economists, editors, guests, maintenance workers, and police officers. Je suis Charlie was echoed around the world, promoting compassion towards the victims of the attack and possibly spreading hatred against ISIS. Just months after such an attack, on November of the same year, a coordinated attack of six suicide bombers and gunmen took place in Paris, killing 130 and injuring 413. France entered a state of emergency after the bombings, one which lasted for almost two years. France has been participating in bombings of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, bombings which were increased in frequency after the attacks.

United Kingdom:

The United Kingdom has also been the target of terrorist attacks, with the highlights being the attack on Manchester during the Ariana Grande concert, leaving 22 dead, and the attacks in Westminster, just outside the Parliament, which left 50 injured (four fatally) and an unarmed police officer stabbed. The attack took place just prior to the day people headed to the voting booths to vote in the snap election Theresa May called, and the Prime Minister was heavily criticized for not being able to stop terrorists. The UK has been conducting bombings of ISIS members in Iraq and Syria.

Russian Federation:

Under President Putin the Russian Federation has seen some terrorist activities, with the highlight being the attack that took place in St. Petersburg. Russia has adopted a series of anti-terrorism laws to try to restrict attacks, with the pinnacle being the Yarovaya law, a pair of bills which amended the previous anti-terrorism laws. The Yarovaya law include the expansion of the authority of law enforcement agencies, new requirements for collecting data, and a ban of missionary activities in non-religious areas.

The Netherlands, Australia, Canada, Jordan, Morocco, (USA, UK, France)

All the above member states have been conducting military operations against ISIS via the forms of bombings, intelligence gathering, and even boots on the ground operations.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS⁷

Date	Description of event
August 7, 1998	US Embassy bombings, Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam
September 11, 2001	19 Al Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed two of them on the World Trade Centre, one into the Pentagon, and one in the fields of Philadelphia
September 12, 2001	The UN Security Council adopts a resolution condemning the attack of 9/11
September 16, 2001	President George W. Bush declares the war on terror
September 28, 2001	The Security Council adopts a resolution which creates the Counter Terrorism Committee, a committee tasked with handling counter terrorism proposals
March 11, 2004	The Spanish Al Qaeda cell organised bombings on two trains in Madrid, just three days before the general election, injuring 2000 and killing almost 200.
March 26. 2004	The Security Council approves the creation of the Counter Terrorism Committee Directorate (CTED), which is tasked with carrying out the decisions of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
2006	The UN adopts by consensus the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
July 11, 2011	Norway is targeted by two sequential terrorist attacks which claimed the lives of 77 people. The first attack was a car bomb and the second was carried out by Anders Behring on a summer camp in a Norwegian Island. 319 people were injured

⁷ https://since911.com/explore-911/terrorism-timeline#jump_time_item_489

April 15, 2013	Boston Massachusetts is shocked by two bombing in the Boston Marathon. 264 people were injured and 3 were killed in the attacks carried out by Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev.
April 14, 2014	Boko Haram kidnaps 276 children in Nigeria. Of them, just 6 were killed
September 5, 2014	International intervention operations against ISIS begin
November 13, 2015	Paris gets attacked by ISIS followers, killing 130 and injuring 368. The country enters a two-year state of emergency
July 14, 2014	A truck driven by an ISIS supporter runs over 86 people and injures 434 in the city of Nice, France
November 24, 2017	People worshipping in a mosque in Bir al-Abed, Egypt during prayers are attacked by 30 attackers linked to ISIS. 128 are killed and 305 are injured. The President of Egypt vows to respond with “brute force”

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

Finding solutions on the issue of Improving International Efforts in Preventing Terrorist Attacks has been a priority for many bodies and governments all around the world mainly due to its relevance, magnitude and importance as an issue. There are so many issues and problems that arise with the current situation the world finds itself in, amongst others ongoing conflicts, violations of human rights both by the terrorists but also the governments themselves, mass religious cleansings and massacres, and terrorist attacks outside Iraq and Syria. None of these issues can be successfully addressed without the presence of political stability and an enforced, legitimate government in places where ISIS is operating. If this is achieved, the following solutions can be implemented:

- Extension of the mandate of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and the Counter Terrorism Committee Directorate so as to improve its efforts to tackle terrorism by promoting further integration of its activities with the member states of the UN
- Reinforcement of efforts to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria by deploying troops to directly fight religious extremism in the area and pave the way for a strong government to be established

- Withdrawing all troops from the Middle East in order to appease local terrorist organization from conducting attacks
- Banning all traffic from Muslim countries suspected to have terrorist travelers aiming to enter countries to organize terrorist attacks
- Raising awareness of populations of member states in order to passively stop any terrorist attacks by promptly reporting incidents to local police and recognizing in advance persons which are aiming to conduct a terrorist attack
- Calling nations to come to the negotiating table with international and national law enforcement agencies such as Interpol, Europol, FBI, etc. in order to devise strategies for all nations to adopt which would limit and help prevent terrorist attacks.

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