

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Location:

Vienna, Austria

Contact Information:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500, 1400 Vienna
Austria

Liaison Office:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
United Nations
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017 (USA)
E-mail: unodc.tpb@unodc.org

Focal Points:

Ms. Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin
Chief
Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB)
Tel: +43 1 26060 4207
E-mail: cecilia.ruthstrom-ruin@unodc.org

Ms. Jo Dedeyne-Amann
Policy Coordination Officer
Office of the Chief
Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), Division for Treaty Affairs
(DTA)
Tel: +43 1 26060 4282
E-mail: jo.dedeyne@unodc.org

Simone Monasebian
Representative
New York Liaison Office
Tel: +1 212 963 4185
E-mail: monasebian@un.org

Year of Establishment: 1997

Website: www.unodc.org

CTITF Working Group Membership:

- Tackling and Financing Terrorism (lead)
- Preventing and Resolving Conflicts
- Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism
- Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes
- Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks
- Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism
- Border Management Related to Counter-Terrorism

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated to assist states in addressing drug control, crime, and terrorism prevention. To that end, UNODC promotes and facilitates the ratification of relevant international legal instruments, conducts research and analysis to inform policymaking, and provides states with technical assistance to develop and implement relevant legislation in accordance with international human rights norms.

Though headquartered in Vienna, UNODC's 450 staff members are spread over twenty field offices and liaison offices in Brussels and New York. UNODC's work is governed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which was created by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1992 to address issues relating to international action to combat national and transnational crimes, including organized crime and money laundering, and to improve the efficiency of criminal justice systems.

UNODC's work on terrorism prevention builds on a longstanding engagement by the office and its earlier, bureaucratic iterations on issues relating to the criminal aspects of terrorism, through its

mandated focus on crime prevention and criminal justice. For example, prior to 1997, the United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice provided substantive input and services for related discussions of the Crime Commission. In 1997, the Terrorism Prevention Branch was established as a two-person team within the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) to focus on the provision of substantive services to intergovernmental bodies and to conduct research and analysis. In December 2001, the General Assembly reaffirmed the role of the center in supporting states' efforts to address terrorism and encouraged the center to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations as a whole to address this evolving challenge.¹⁹⁰ TPB was expanded in 2002 and now includes twenty-five staff members at headquarters and in field offices.¹⁹¹

TPB's primary tasks include providing assistance to requesting states to help them ratify and implement all the available international legal instruments against terrorism and develop their domestic legislation and criminal justice processes accordingly. As part of these efforts, TPB also provides capacity-building assistance to strengthen the abilities of states' criminal justice system and assists states with implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism. TPB also facilitates international cooperation on issues relating to crime and terrorism.¹⁹²

Since January 2003, TPB has been delivering specialized counterterrorism technical assistance within the framework of its Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime Against Terrorism, which provides an overall framework for their delivery of technical assistance. The Global Project utilizes a four-pronged approach:

- 1) tailor-made support to countries, upon request, to help analyze their legislative gaps;
- 2) knowledge sharing and stocktaking workshops at the regional and subregional level;
- 3) technical assistance focused on the ratification and implementation of the universal legal instrument; and
- 4) partnerships with other relevant entities to avoid duplication of efforts.

Among some of the accomplishments of the Global Project, UNODC points to the following quantitative results:¹⁹³

- Member states, with which TPB has conducted technical cooperation activities since 2002, undertook an estimated 467 new ratifications of the universal antiterrorism instruments.
- In January 2003, when the Global Project started, 26 countries had ratified all of the twelve initial universal instruments; by December 2008, 102 countries had ratified all of them.
- Some 62 countries have new or revised counterterrorism legislation in different stages of adoption.
- Approximately 7,700 criminal-justice officials from some 100 countries have undergone capacity-building training, provided in whole or in part by UNODC, to implement the legal counterterrorism regimes.

Given its mandate and range of activities, UNODC's work focuses primarily on Pillars II, III, and IV of the 2006 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (henceforth, Global Strategy), which respectively focus on preventing and combating terrorism, strengthening states' counterterrorism capacities, and ensuring the respect for human rights in all these efforts.¹⁹⁴ UNODC is an active member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and a number of its working groups (listed above).

One of its projects with the CTITF has been the conceptualization and development of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism I-ACT initiative: an interactive information system that maps identifies states counterterrorism gaps and assistance needs, which then form the basis for country-specific plans for assistance delivery.

UNODC is also a member of the Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism. Drawing from the agencies experience providing legal assistance to victims during criminal justice procedures, UNODC was a lead author of the working group's report exploring best practices in criminal justice responses to terrorism entitled, "The Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism," published in November 2011.

As a co-chair of the Working Group on Tackling the Financing of Terrorism, alongside the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, UNODC contributed substantively and organizationally to a report, and a series of accompanying roundtables, to assist states in effectively implementing international standards to combat the financing of terrorism. The report, entitled Tackling the Financing of Terrorism, was launched in Vienna in October 2010, at the occasion of the International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points. UNODC is also contributing to the development of an implementation plan, based on the report.

UNODC is also an active member of the Working Groups on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes; Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism; and Border Management Related to Counter-Terrorism, which held its first meeting in December 2010.