

## Preventing and Resolving Conflicts

### Website:

[www.un.org/terrorism/conflict\\_prevention.shtml](http://www.un.org/terrorism/conflict_prevention.shtml)

### Members:

- Department of Political Affairs (DPA) (lead)
- Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
- Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

### Purpose:

The Working Group on Preventing and Resolving Conflict is led by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) with the aim of integrating UN counter-terrorism objectives into the UN's work on conflict prevention and resolution. Moreover, pursuant to the 2006 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (henceforth, Global Strategy), which identifies the peaceful resolution of conflicts as key to global counter-terrorism efforts,<sup>233</sup> the working group focuses on strengthening efforts to prevent and end conflict. The Global Strategy calls for relevant parties

To continue to strengthen and make best possible use of the capacities of the United Nations in areas such as conflict prevention, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, judicial settlement, rule of law, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to contribute to the successful prevention and peaceful resolution

of prolonged unresolved conflicts. We recognize that the peaceful resolution of such conflicts would contribute to strengthening the global fight against terrorism.<sup>234</sup>

To this end, the working group has developed an initiative with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) to help implement the Global Strategy in this region. The working group is preparing a regional action plan to implement the strategy—the first regional initiative on implementation of the Global Strategy on the ground. The initiative is based on three expert-level meetings and the concluding ministerial summit, with a focus on assisting the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to enhance capacity building and prepare a regional action plan for implementation of the Global Strategy.<sup>235</sup>

The first meeting took place in Bratislava, Slovakia in December 2010 and focused on implementing Pillars I and IV of the Global Strategy, addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law, respectively.<sup>236</sup> The resultant report notes that the resolution of conflicts will involve addressing economic and political issues in the region such as the water/energy crisis inter-ethnic crisis, illegal migration, and the smuggling of drugs and weapons.<sup>237</sup> The report also notes that instability in Afghanistan has intensified terrorism in Central Asia and offers some recommendations to strengthen security grounded in the rule of law.

The second meeting took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in March 2011 and focused on Pillar II of the Global Strategy, on preventing and combating terrorism and providing a platform for governments in the region to identify best practices and gaps in their counterterrorism efforts. The resultant report offers recommendations on enhancing legal and international instruments, improving law enforcement cooperation for prevention and combating terrorism, countering the financing of terrorism, countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, and responding to attacks using WMDs and denying illicit trafficking.<sup>238</sup>

The third expert meeting took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on

July 21-22nd, focusing on Pillar III of the Strategy on building states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism. Participants offered recommendations for the elaboration of a joint action plan to implement the Global Strategy in Central Asia, which was adopted at a ministerial meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in November 2011.<sup>239</sup>

The working group has also drafted guidelines for UN mediators on the implications of terrorism for peacemaking and the ramifications that conflict can have on the Global Strategy. These issues require a careful balance by UN mediators as they consider how to handle conflict situations with elements of terrorism. The guidelines point out terrorism-related factors that UN peacemakers may take into consideration in peace negotiations or peace agreements.<sup>240</sup> Furthermore, the guidelines discuss the relevance of counterterrorism for the work of UN peacemakers; lays out existing international legal and strategic guidelines on counterterrorism for reference by UN peacemakers; and underline the security implications of terrorism for UN missions, especially mediation efforts that may be seen as potential targets for terrorism.