

**OSCE and avenues of
cooperation
in implementing
The
Global Strategy against
terrorism**

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A} The UN Counter Terrorism Strategy: a comprehensive tool for all of us

- When the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted in 2006, the Secretary-General said, the extent to which this strategy is truly historic will depend on the extent to which it is implemented. Regional and Sub-regional Organizations (RSRs) are part of the answers. In this regard, OSCE was already a pioneer in countering terrorism since its Ministerial Council Declaration in its aspects related to Terrorism in 2001. All the following Ministerial Declarations of OSCE contained such a commitment and supported the actions undertaken by its Secretariat.
- This is the reason we should be grateful to your organization to have been very quickly been on the fore front to do so. More specifically, the Strategy sets forth 9 provisions that concern RSRs and have implications for their counter-terrorism programmes, including encouraging “relevant regional and sub-regional organizations to create or strengthen counter-terrorism mechanisms or centers”. Truly, OSCE enjoys substantive expertise and knowledge, as well as the advantage of field presence and natural political platform, which are all assets for a comprehensive response to terrorism.
- More specifically, OSCE once again was a step ahead both with its Action against Terrorism Unit which in any case has worked closely with its natural partner UNODC/TPB in Vienna which is one of the very active members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force as well its relevant unit in ODHIR concerning the Human Rights perspective. Many other actions as reflected on the Report of the Secretary General on OSCE Counter-Terrorism Activities in implementation of MC.DEC/10/08 are also undertaken by OSCE in this context. For example, I should recall here, inter alia, the joint actions undertaken by OSCE with the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate of the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, as well as with the Monitoring Team of Resolution 1267, and many other actions with our various entities. Indeed, the UN action against Terrorism has not started with the adoption of the Strategy; substantive actions have been done already by our colleagues from the agencies which are operationally in charge of counter-terrorism activities but the Strategy has given us a comprehensive tool for which the action of all, primarily Member States but also as a support for that action, the work of International, Regional and Sub Regional Organizations to implement fully the four pillars of the Strategy which was conceived as a package.

- Furthermore, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides an other tool to enhance UN's cooperation with RSRs in counter-terrorism. This mechanism has been formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly and is constituted by the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The Task Force can serve as one link between the UN and RSRs to ensure cooperation in implementing the Strategy in a systematic and integrated manner. Already, the Task Force had a comprehensive engagement with RSRs at the 2006 high-level meeting between the Secretary-General and heads of RSRs. At the meeting, many of the RSRs representatives welcomed the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and expressed the willingness to cooperate with the UN in implementing the strategy, building upon the many existing activities. Some of them specifically mentioned that the UN could engage RSRs as the entry point to help States build capacities in counter-terrorism, including streamlining and fulfilling reporting obligations, providing assistance on legal drafting and ratification and implementation of the international instruments, and filling gaps in implementing relevant Security Council Resolutions.

B} A platform for common actions

- **1) The UN Online Handbook** which was developed by the Task Force, centralizes and disseminates information on UN system counter-terrorism related activities as well information on RSRs partners. In this perspective, having together in one on line document all the information concerning both UN and RSRs related actions against terrorism is already a good demonstration that RSRs work together. I would like to encourage our OSCE various counter parts to provide us as many links as possible concerning their actions against terrorism and also to jointly work with CTITF to envisage to integrate even more the information provided in the on-line Handbook which could be could look at this handbook for a one-stop-shop to utilize UN counter-terrorism resources/RSRs actions with OSCE having a pioneer role in it.

2) Preventive Diplomacy as one of the main actions against terrorism to be developed in partenariat with OSCE

- It should also be underlined that the Department of Political Affairs, which is the U.N. focal point for cooperation with RSRs, has put together a mapping of counter-terrorism activities by respective RSRs; moreover, it will also launch very soon a specific action in Central Asia together with the European Union concerning preventive actions through its new United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). In thios context, the CTITF Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution, in partnership with the Centre, is planning to convene a series of meetings in Central Asia on the facilitating of experiences and good practices of countering terrorism in the region,

particularly in implementing the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a comprehensive and integrated manner. A number of RSRs, including EC, OSCE, SCO, NATO, CIS, CST, would be expected to participate in and make contributions to the process. Indeed, in a message of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which took place in Ekaterinburg, Russia on 16 June 2009, he commented this initiative in Central Asia as an excellent vehicle for building our relationship with SCO in dealing with the region's challenges. We plan to replica the initiative in Central Asia. I strongly believe in a very close cooperation between the Centre and OSCE for this new initiative which will even demonstrate that collective action between the UN and several regional organizations at the same time reinforce even more our common efforts on prevention of conflicts as well as countering terrorism and other forms of crimes.

3) How OSCE has contribute and can contribute better to the actions of the CTITF Working Groups

- As you may know, many other actions have been developed by CTITF through its working groups which are lead by the various entities part of the UN System and Interpol. Just let me comment some of them with a special emphasis on the work which has been done with the RSRs in this respect which can provide all of us today with some ideas on how we can strengthen our cooperation in the future for. The purpose of coordinated engagement at the regional level on implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- ***a) The CTITF Working Group on Supporting Victims*** assisted the Secretary-General has convened a symposium on supporting victims last September, as a concrete step to assist Member States in their commitment in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on supporting victims. It also helped victims of terrorist acts in building international solidarity with them. By bring together victims, experts, and representatives of Member States, regional organizations, civil society, and the media, the Symposium proved to be a useful forum in giving victims a human face, providing a forum for discussing concrete steps to assist victims, sharing best practices, and highlighting measures already taken by Member States and non-governmental organizations to support victims. The CTITF also greatly benefited from the OSCE experience on supporting victims through, for example, the concrete results of the OSCE High Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism in September 2007. We should think together on how to do more into that direction.
- ***b) The CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism***, in addition to continuing its work on developing technical reference guides (practical tools), aims to continue bringing together relevant stakeholders at the national and/or regional levels to help facilitate the exchange of information

and experiences, through the organization of regional workshops on specific thematic issues, with a regional focus. Issues related to the right to a fair trial in the context of countering terrorism have been identified as a possible theme for such a workshop. In this context, CTITF can rely on a number of documents, workshops and actions undertaken by ODIHR as well as the work done through the various OSCE country offices. Agencies which are members of the Working Group such as our lead entity, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have frequent links with ODIHR on this very sensitive subject matter and will continue to do so.

- **c) The CTITF Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes** convened a stakeholder meeting in November 2008, which discussed about the nature of the threat represented by use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, and the most appropriate means for dealing with it. Expert(s) from the OSCE participated actively in the meeting. In the future, the Working Group intends to extend the outreach to and work with regional organizations including OSCE.
- **d) The CTITF Working Group on Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT)**, which aims to enhance the capacity within the United Nations system to help interested Member States, upon their request, to implement the Strategy in an integrated manner, intends to seek the involvement of regional and sub regional organizations relevant to Strategy implementation in its Partnering Member States (currently, Madagascar and Nigeria). CTITF recently shared this initiative at an experts group meeting on “African Perspectives on International Terrorism” convened by the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, during which event the AU and regional economic communities also participated and the UN engagement with Africa on implementing the Strategy was discussed. I am quite confident that it could also be the case with you organization.
- **5) UNICRI (within the framework of the CTITF Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets)** has worked extensively with regional organizations in its applied research work on public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the protection of vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks. Representatives of regional organizations, such as CICTE, OAS, EC and OSCE, have participated in brainstorming meetings in order to facilitate the collection of technical information and security practices on PPPs. A testing event related to PPPs was held in Mexico in March 2009 in close cooperation with CICTE/OAS, and UNICRI intends to continue its work and organize additional action oriented workshops with a regional or sub-regional focus in the future. Furthermore, the working group has circulated a questionnaire to relevant international and regional organizations and entities to help map ongoing activities related to the protection of vulnerable targets, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, CICTE, EC and OSCE have provided relevant information.

- 6) In November 2007, the Department of Political Affairs, which now houses the CTITF, organized with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the OIC, an International Conference on Terrorism, which was designed to promote closer collaboration between the UN and SRSs in the fight against terrorism in the broad context of inter cultural and inter religious dialogue. The CTITF intends to continue this process by convening follow-up events

Conclusion

- In conclusion, RSRs provide a resource that has not been used enough by the UN system to the greatest advantage of countries all over the World. I would like to offer to your organization to reinforce our joint efforts in countering terrorism in a broad way and along the actions I mention in that presentation in a manner which would serve as a pilot experience for a better and effective implementation the Strategy. Such activities would not only help ensure regional contributions in implementing the Strategy, but also improve the link between the Task Force and Member States in its implementation.
- In addition, cross-regional assistance and cooperation can be facilitated so that RSRs that have developed expertise and experience can provide support to those still developing related capacities. OSCE enjoys the advantage on the provider's side.
- Finally, I would like to underline that very often RSRs wonder how to interact effectively with the global organization. In the meantime, the UN wonders how to engage systematically regional entities which are very often substantively different. Let try to respond to this challenges concretely through a variety of actions which are required to face the challenge of a real implementation of the Strategy. CTITF stands ready to provide an interface with RSRs on implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy for which our joint OSCE/ UN CTITF initiative could constitute one of the first steps.

Thank you