



# Disarmament and International Security Committee

*Topic 1: Reinforce national institutions through international cooperation, in order to prevent violence and contrast terrorism and crime.*

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### 1. Definition of key terms

**Cooperation:** the act of working together for a joint benefit.

**Violence:** injurious treatment or action involving physical force done on purpose of hurting, damaging or killing someone or something.

**Terrorism:** the illegitimate use of violence and intimidation, exercised over civilians, governments or international organization with a view to achieving political, religious or social aims.

**Crime:** an act or omission of a grave nature, punishable by law as forbidden by statute or injurious to the public welfare.



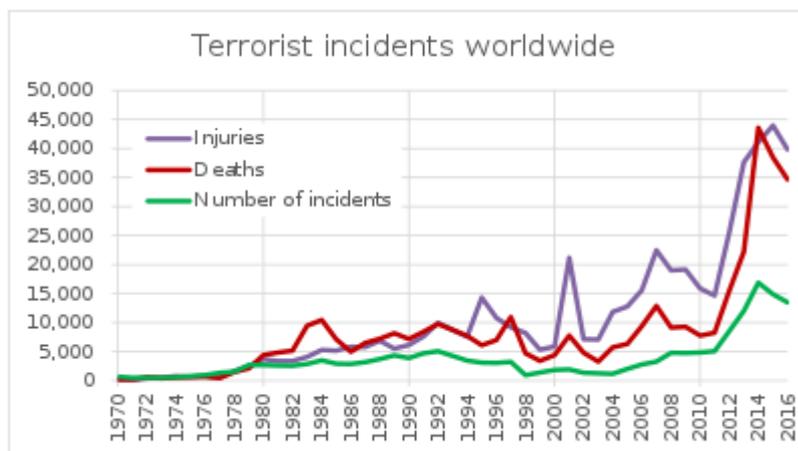
## 2. Introduction

Collective violence is a collective behaviour put into practice by a large number of people responding to a common stimulus. The organized forms of collective violence include revolutions, rebellions, war and terrorism.

The systematic use of violence to create a frightening climate in a population is exerted by nationalistic and religious group, by revolutionaries and even by state institutions such as armies and police. Nowadays terrorism has a real and direct impact on humanity and its rights. In addition to these individual costs, this phenomenon can destabilise Governments, threaten peace and security and hamper social and economic development. Security of the individual is a basic human right and the protection of people is a fundamental requirement of Government. States therefore have an obligation to make certain that the human rights of their nationals and others won't be violated by taking positive measures to protect them against the threat of terrorist acts and bringing the executioners of such acts to justice.

## 3. Background information

Various attempts have been made to distinguish among different kind of terrorist activities depending on the aims, beliefs and the members of groups involved in terrorism and also on the political contexts of their campaigns. Conventionally three categories of terrorism are identified: revolutionary, sub-revolutionary and establishment terrorism. The revolutionary form is the most common one and it is focused on the replacement of a political system with further structures. Sub-revolutionary terrorism is used to change the already in place socio-political structure. Secondly, the last form is operated by governments against government's citizens or against foreign groups. Terror has been put into practice by state and nonstate actors throughout history and anywhere in the world. The 20<sup>th</sup> century took part in great changes in the use of practice this kind of crime thanks also to the new procedures and opportunities given by technological advances. It seems to be a long-lasting feature to a political life and the use of terrorism to carry on a political cause has accelerated in recent years: the graph shown below represents a global terrorism database and from this it appears the increase of terrorism attacks.





#### 4. Major countries involved

The ten worst affected countries are all in the Middle East, Asia and Africa and, in almost all instances, it is Islamist extremists who are liable for most of death (except for India). According to the number of incidents, deaths and injuries and the amount of property damage, the countries are:

##### Iraq

Iraq suffered more from terrorism than any other country. More than 40 different groups have initiated attacks in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003, but two of them have generated particularly death: Islamic State and Al Qaeda.

##### Afghanistan

The situation is getting worse and worse: The total number of deaths since 2000 from such incidents now amounted to around 22, 730.

##### Nigeria

Nigeria also saw a decline in terrorist incidents last year, with 34% fewer attacks compared to 2014.

##### Pakistan

There was a substantial reduction in terrorism in Pakistan last year, with 45% fewer attacks and 38% fewer deaths.

##### Syria

The most lethal conflagration in the Middle East continues to cause huge suffering and loss of life.

##### Yemen

In terms of terrorist attacks, the most active groups are Houthi extremists, followed by the local affiliates of Islamic State and Al Qaeda.

##### India

Most terrorist attacks in India have relatively low casualty rates, a consequence of the fact that they are usually carried out by group that are looking for political recognition rather than large number of deaths.

##### Somalia

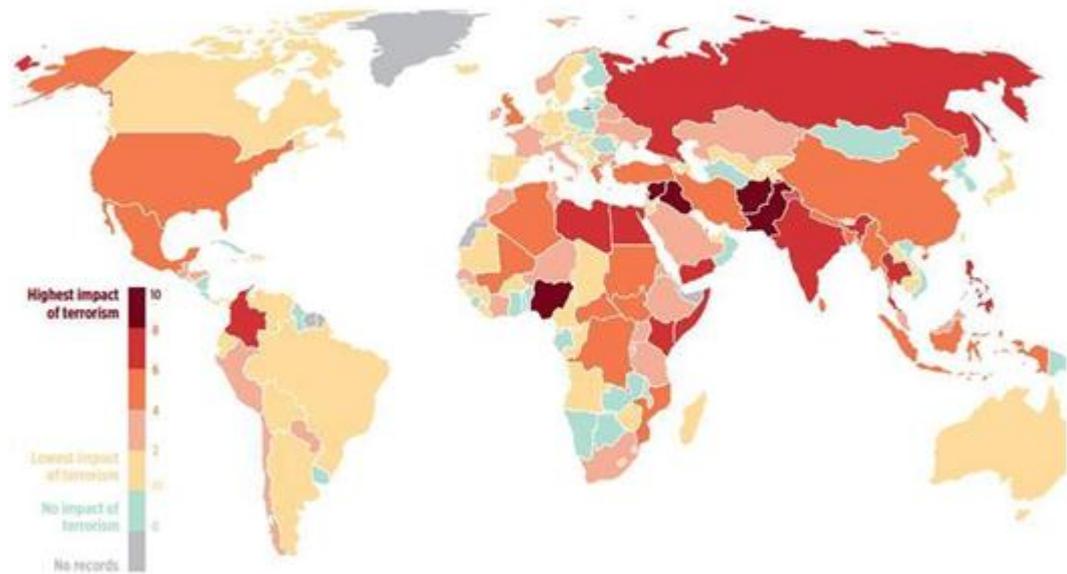
This country has battled with conflict since 1991 during the Civil War. Terrorist group al-Shabab continues to contribute to instability in the country.

##### Egypt

The downfall of a Metrojet plane in 2015 highlighted the political instability in Egypt, which continues to have grave economic consequences for the country's economy.

## Libya

The problems in Libya are a consequence of the political vacuum that has persisted since the unseat of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 - earlier than there had been no recorded incidents of terrorist deaths.



## 5. UN involvement

The UN adopted the Global Counter- Terrorism Strategy on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006. The strategy is a unique global instrument to foster national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. Through its adoption that all Member States have signed up to a common strategic and operational approach to fight terrorism not only sending the message that terrorism is unacceptable but also taking specific steps individually and collectively to prevent and fight it. The General Assembly reviews the Strategy every two years and it is composed of 4 pillars:

Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

Measures to prevent and combat terrorism

Measures to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard;

Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was established through the adoption of General Assembly on 15 June 2017. As suggested by Secretary General Antonio Guterres the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre were moved into a new Office headed by an Under-Secretary General. He will provide leadership



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to UN Counter-Terrorism efforts and ensure that the cross-cutting impact of terrorism are reflected in the UN's work. The Office will aim to have a close relationship with Security Council bodies and Member States, strengthening existing and developing new partnerships through regular attendance at meetings in order to assist and enhance coordination between countries.



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## 6. useful and reliable links

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

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

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

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2016/11/18/countries-most-affected-by-terrorism/#6af0757830d9>