

Committee: Counter-Terrorism Committee (historic)

Chair:

President: Santiago Sebastian Gonzalez Lopez

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Topic: “Addressing the change in the global landscape after the recent 11th 2001 attacks”



I. INTRODUCTION

The Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) is a body within the United Nations. It was created after the 9/11 events via Resolution 1373, established on September 28, 2001. The purpose of its creation was to aid nations in answering terrorist threats more effectively by addressing global weaknesses in legal systems worldwide, intelligence sharing, and responses to attacks. The committee's main focus is to prevent terrorism by guiding all the nations in subjects like freezing terrorist assets, stopping all economic support, enhancing border control, and enabling technology such as biometrics or passenger data. It also plays a crucial role in ensuring collaboration is effective, monitoring how resolutions are applied, and offering resources for countries to respond best. Today, its main mission is to assess how nations are prepared to handle terrorism and promote international collaboration to reduce and respond to global terrorist threats.

Due to intelligence gaps, vital information about suspicious individuals held by the CIA and FBI wasn't shared by them or coordinated properly. This implied key threats that were overlooked before 9/11, which could've prevented a lot of damage if handled correctly by these agencies. Later on, this led to big reforms, including the creation of the Director of National Intelligence. After 9/11, countries increased their focus on security. The U.S. adopted a stronger military approach, working closely with allies. While some alliances became stronger through military cooperation, others became weaker, especially due to disagreements like the invasion of Iraq. This forced organizations like the UN and NATO to adjust their roles and priorities.

Following these changes in alliances and security, the U.S. military started Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This mission goal was to defeat al-Qaeda and Taliban militants. The war later expanded to other places like Iraq and Pakistan, with military efforts supported by NATO and other allies.

As a result of the War on Terror, al-Qaeda's main leadership was weakened, but new groups like ISIS formed. Long wars caused instability and increased radicalization, and immigration rules and global surveillance became stricter, which resulted in the infringement of civil liberties in various countries.

Counterterrorism became a global priority for the U.S. and its allies, leading to increased surveillance, airport security, and border controls. Increasing discrimination was also experienced, especially in Muslim and Middle Eastern countries, which were often targeted inspections, by airport security, like TSA, DHS, the FBI, and other law enforcement agencies.

To support these efforts, national security became the U.S. government's top priority, making the USA PATRIOT Act increase government surveillance powers, creating agencies like the TSA to protect transportation. As a result, these actions prompted other countries to follow similar strategies. These actions also raised debates about civil liberties and racial profiling.

II. HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

Terrorism has existed for centuries, but the 9/11 attacks changed global security. This conflict became a global war between governments and extremist terrorist groups. It is a political, ideological, and military struggle against extremist movements that oppose Western influence and use violence to achieve their goals. The conflict began on September 11, 2001, with simultaneous attacks on symbolic U.S. sites like the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, organized by al-Qaeda. As a result, the U.S. launched the War on Terror, with

military campaigns that have lasted for decades across many regions. Because of its ongoing and expanding nature, this conflict is not limited to one area or group.

The main political actors in this conflict include the U.S. government, especially under President George W. Bush, who promoted widespread counter-terrorism programs. International allies like NATO and the UN also participated through joint operations, resolutions, and humanitarian aid. The most direct threat was Al-Qaeda, a terrorist group led by Osama bin Laden. As a result, the U.S. also targeted the governments of Iraq and Pakistan for their alleged connections to terrorism.

Several actions throughout the conflict caused it to escalate. Military interventions led to civilian casualties and destruction, which created anger against the West and increased radicalization. The lack of strong post-war plans allowed extremist groups to take power. Their ideas spread even faster due to global communication and technology. These events also affected public opinion. Initially, many Americans and their allies supported the War on Terror. Over time, support decreased because the wars lasted long and caused heavy losses in lives and money. Younger people and some political groups became more critical of military actions and surveillance. By 2021, nearly half of Americans believed the U.S. had not achieved its goals in Afghanistan. Today, many people view the conflict's legacy with more thought and criticism.

III. CURRENT HAPPENINGS

The war on terror was launched by the US military after 9/11 to prevent future attacks and eliminate terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda. Even so, it became a major part of US foreign policy; it led to wars and instability, changing global alliances and military tactics. During this war, the U.S. launched Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in October 2001. This mission ended up expanding to Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, and Africa, leading NATO to use Article 5.

It's important to highlight that before 9/11, the CIA and FBI held some information about some hijackers but didn't share it. This failure was a big reason the attacks weren't stopped, leading to reforms, like creating the director of national intelligence to improve communication and enhance collaboration.

The invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001 was a direct consequence of the September 11 terrorist attacks, in which the al-Qaeda terrorist group killed around 3,000 people on U.S. territory. The U.S. quickly identified the culprit, al-Qaeda. They demanded that the Taliban residing in Afghanistan hand over al-Qaeda and their leader, Osama bin Laden, or otherwise there would be consequences. The Taliban refused to cooperate and stated that they would not hand over al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden until being provided evidence of his acts, offering only to extradite Osama bin Laden through a third-party country, and with evidence. As a result, the U.S. and its allies launched Operation Enduring Freedom, seeking to destroy al-Qaeda, remove the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, and prevent Afghanistan from being a haven for terrorist parties.

After the 9/11 attacks, airport security entered a new era, enhancing security and implementing new technologies. Nations realized that weak airport security could pose an extreme danger. This led to a change in how airport security is viewed and how countries approach it. This new era is defined by layered screening systems, biometric identification such as facial recognition, fingerprint scans, iris scans, and the implementation of global intelligence databases. Programs like TSA PreCheck and Global Entry serve as pre-screening for passengers. International organizations such as TSA and ICAO implemented these security protocols, while airlines began to share data.

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, the United States passed the USA Patriot Act in October 2001, expanding government oversight capabilities to prevent future terrorist attacks. The legislation empowered U.S. entities to monitor phone calls, emails, financial records, and even arrest individuals without immediate charges if they were suspected of terrorism. This legislation quickly became a benchmark for other nations and impacted counterterrorism policies worldwide. Governments around the world began implementing similar regulations, which increased security and raised concerns about human rights and privacy. The legislation also led to the establishment of entities such as the Department of Homeland Security and the strengthening of airport and border surveillance systems. Although the law's purpose was to safeguard national security, it sparked discussions about racial discrimination, particularly against Muslim communities, and called into question the balance between freedom and security worldwide.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

- **United Nations**

- **General Assembly:**

- The General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) in 2006, and it has reviewed the GCTS ever since, most recently in 2018. It also passed resolutions supporting Resolution 1373 (2001), which called on states to criminalize terrorism, freeze assets, and enhance the cooperation of judicial authorities.

- **Security Council:**

- Resolution 1368 (2001), approved by every member, blamed 9/11, supported the U.S. right to self-defense, and engaged in international cooperation. Then, Resolution 1373 (2001) established mandatory legal standards to criminalize terrorist financing, enforce border controls, and share intelligence.

- **Counter-Terrorism Committee:**

- It was created directly under Resolution 1373, consisting of all 15 Security Council members. Through CTED, they conduct assessments in states (e.g., Somalia and Malta) and offer technical support, capacity-building workshops, and guidance on finance, border, and legal systems.

- **United Nations Human Rights Office:**

- Created a Special Rapporteur on promoting and protecting human rights in the context of counter-terrorism in 2005. It also tracks the global counter-terrorism landscape, addressing issues of detention without trial, privacy rights, and ensuring that states fulfil human rights obligations in conducting counter terrorism activities.

- **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs:**

- While not directly linked to terrorism, OCHA adjusted its emergency response model post-9/11, coordinating humanitarian aid during related conflicts. It emphasises anticipatory action, stronger inter-agency coordination, and timely humanitarian response in crises triggered by counter-terror operations.

- **IGO's**

- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):** Invoked Article 5, which stated that if one member state was attacked, it meant all members were

threatened. NATO collaborates with CTC to create a strategic framework for dismantling terrorism. They provided military and strategic defense mechanisms.

- **The European Union:** After 9/11 EU strengthened its security on borders and also on airport security. They created the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and updated legislation regarding money laundering and terrorist financing. The EU provides CTC with regular reports about its implementation ps on the UNSC resolutions, especially on resolution 1373.
- **The World Trade Organization:** The 9/11 attacks disrupted globalization. It revealed the vulnerability of global trade to terrorism. There was a concern about protecting supply chains, increasing security, and preventing terrorist parties from benefiting financially from trade systems. WTO works indirectly with CTC goals. They help to monitor and regulate goods and flows that could be used for terrorism.
- **International Criminal Police Organization:** After 9/11, INTERPOL extended its focus on counter-terrorism, creating databases for terrorist suspects, stolen travel documents, and biometric information. It enhances and encourages global cooperation for identifying and arresting terrorist suspects internationally. INTERPOL helps with tracking terrorist networks, sharing intelligence, and enforcing anti-terrorism laws following the UN guidelines.
- **NGOs**
 - **American Red Cross:** The American Red Cross offered emergency aid immediately following the 9/11 attacks. They provided victims and rescue personnel with food, lodging, blood donations, and emotional support. In the early days of the crisis, they played a vital role.
 - **VOICES Center for Resilience:** This group was established to assist 9/11-affected families. It provides resources for healing, mental health assistance, and aids in the preservation of victims' memories. Additionally, VOICES strives to get communities ready for catastrophes in the future.
 - **Heart 9/11:** Dedicated to helping communities recover from disasters, Heart 9/11 was founded by first responders. Following 9/11, they provided emergency response training, mental health support, and building assistance both domestically and abroad.

- **Michael Lynch Memorial Foundation:** Firefighter Michael Lynch, who lost his life on 9/11, is honored by this foundation. Despite the tragedy, it helps victims' children continue their studies and establish a future by offering them scholarships.

V. BLOCK ANALYSIS

United States of America: The United States of America was directly attacked on September 11 of 2001, ending up with around 3,000 casualties. In response, it created the global “War on Terror”, starting the invasion of Afghanistan to dismantle Al-Qaeda and overthrow the Taliban, which later expanded into Iraq in 2004. Internally, the U.S. created the Department of Homeland Security, which passed the patriot act, and went on to reshape its foreign policy around counterterrorism, reaffirming its global leadership through alliances and military power.

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Under Taliban rule, Afghanistan provided a haven to Al-Qaeda before the attacks. After everything took place, the U.S. and its allies invaded in October of 2001, overthrowing the Taliban regime and turning the country into the central battleground of “The War on Terror”. Despite taking international military and humanitarian involvement, the country faced long-term instability and multiple crises that reshaped its role in global security stakeholders.

Republic of Iraq: It wasn't directly involved in the success of 9/11, but Iraq was accused of developing weapons of mass destruction, along with supporting terrorism. This led to the U.S. lead in 2003 and the invasion that overthrew Saddam Hussein, which sparked regional instability and the rise of multiple insurgent groups like ISIS. Iraq became a central example of the controversies surrounding the U.S. foreign intervention and its long-term consequences.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia faced major criticisms after it was announced that 15 out of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals. So, as a key U.S. ally, it strengthened counterterrorism cooperation by enacting reforms to limit extremist financing. All while it sought to distance itself from bigger accusations of spreading radical ideologies and maintaining its strategic partnership with the U.S.

United Arab Emirates: It was implicated in the attacks as two hijackers were Emirati nationals, and concerns were raised about the role as a central hub for terror financing. It tightened financial monitoring systems, which deepened military and security cooperation with the U.S., it positioned itself as a reliable regional partner in counterterrorism efforts, which enhances its global reputation as a stable state in the Gulf.

Arab Republic of Egypt: The link to 9/11 came because of Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian who became Al-Qaeda's second in command. After the attacks, Egypt increased its intelligence measures against Islamist groups. While it aligned with Western counterterrorism goals, the government also had this context to justify stricter control over political opposition at home.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: It emerged as one of the closest allies of the U.S. after 9/11, and it participates in both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Nationally, it tightened counterterrorism laws and increased homeland security. However, its participation also made them a target, as in 2005 during the London bombings, it was revealed the challenge of facing global counterterrorism leadership along with internal security.

Commonwealth of Australia: It invoked the ANZUS treaty for the first time after 9/11, creating itself a stronger ally of the U.S. It also contributed troops to both Afghanistan and Iraq, while also introducing more strict counterterrorism laws nationally. The Bali bombing in 2002, which caused multiple deaths, reinforced the country's sense of vulnerability to global terrorism and its role in "The War on Terror".

Canada: It supported the U.S. efforts in Afghanistan through military and intelligence support, but it was clearly noticed that it refused to participate in the 2003 war in Iraq, reflecting a more cautious approach. The country strengthened border security and counterterrorism cooperation with the U.S. while also preserving its multilateral diplomatic identity, balancing both obligations along with independent foreign policy choices.

French Republic: It opposed the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which led to significant tension with Washington. France increased its domestic and international counterterrorism strategies and

later faced its own major terrorist threats. Frances' stance reflected in the division among Western allies over the act in “The War on Terror”.

Federal Republic of Germany: Germany contributed troops and aid to NATO's mission in Afghanistan, but it was strongly against the U.S. start of war in Iraq. Nationally, it implemented stricter anti-terrorism measures and security measures with civil liberties. Its role is reflected in its commitment to transatlantic cooperation through NATO while maintaining an independent and cautious foreign policy stance.

Italian Republic: Italy presently experiences high migration arrivals in the Central Mediterranean and actively enforces counter-terrorism laws and cooperates with its EU partners. Italy has now put in domestic laws to deal with foreign terrorist fighters, as well as work with the UN and EU on capacity building and border security. Italy has contributed manpower and development costs to Afghanistan and associated Afghan operations (estimates of full costs differ by source). Italy cooperates with UNHCR and other international and multilateral organisations on reception and asylum processing, and is still providing reception and processing to asylum seekers under both national and EU rules. Italy has undertaken refugee resettlement in partnership with UNHCR and is developing its reception and resettlement policies.

Japan: Japan took a new stance on counter-terrorism after September 11th, and has offered development and reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan and the surrounding nations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs outlines Japan's actions as comprising legal (i.e., legislative) action, international cooperation, and peace-building or reconstruction assistance. Japan has a historically low percentage of refugee recognition, which has recently gone up, while the government continues to process asylum claims. Japan also provides humanitarian assistance and international cooperation with the agencies of the UN. Reports from the Japanese Foreign Ministry and associated materials outline both previous monetary assistance and current counter-terrorism initiatives around the world.

New Zealand: New Zealand has a national counter-terrorism strategy that prioritises prevention, international collaboration, and whole-of-government coordination. The government of Wellington provides small development assistance and technical support for reconstruction and counter-radicalisation initiatives, and is also involved in international

intelligence and capacity-building activities. New Zealand has a formal resettlement programme that operates through the UNHCR, with a quota of refugees that is followed by government processes for resettled refugees. The government provides information on its quota and resettlement processes and works closely with UNHCR regarding both selection and integration processes.

The Republic of Türkiye: Turkey is home to one of the largest refugee groups in the world, including more than three million registered Syrians under temporary protection, and it still acts as a significant partner for humanitarian habitation in the area. Ankara has invested substantially in national and international resources for services for refugees, and cooperated with the EU and UNHCR to provide funding and with projects (for instance, the EU-Turkey migration arrangements). The Turkish government offers large-scale habitation and education, health assistance, and continues to coordinate international support for humanitarian and development activities. Turkey accepts and hosts refugees under temporary protection schemes and works closely with UNHCR on protection and resettlement as necessary.

VI. KEY POINTS

Military power: It's a country's ability to use its armed forces to defend itself and achieve political goals.

Political Power: The ability of an individual, government, or a group of people to influence decisions and thoughts.

Domestic Security: Is the protection of an individual or country against crime or attacks by foreign countries

Department of Homeland Security: Is the improvement of the Security of the United States, which includes customs, border, and immigration enforcement.

‘War on Terror’: Following the 9/11 attacks, the U.S changed its foreign policies and international security to prevent another intelligence gap.

Later, the U.S.A. Following a declaration of a ‘War on Terror’, the mission goal was to defeat al-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

Terrorist Attacks: A terrorist attack can be defined as a planned act of violence or threat on a target to provoke fear in a society and to achieve a political, ideological, or religious purpose targeting civilians or property. The 9/11 terrorist attacks perpetrated by al-Qaeda

were a significant inflection point in global security strategy. The attacks targeted ideological symbolism with the United States' World Trade Center and the Pentagon as targets. The attacks on September 11th resulted in the deaths of almost 3,000 people.

Detention Program: After 9/11, President George W. Bush authorized the CIA to conduct a detention program for secretly detaining suspects for intelligence. The methods that have been universally criticized as torture sparked international debates about human rights.

International Terrorism: Al-Qaeda changed internationally from a significant threat that began the "War on Terror" by international actors and states that included NATO collaboration as well as troop deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq that reduced al-Qaeda's foothold, but that also created and aggravated instability, and led to the rise of ISIS.

Historical legacy - Ground Zero: "Ground Zero" is the term used to refer to the site where the Twin Towers once stood after 9/11. The attacks had an overwhelmingly significant impact on U.S. history and the global and U.S. security policy response.

Al-Qaeda: Al-Qaeda is a transnational terrorist group behind 9/11, whose global network prompted U.S. military action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Global antiterrorism law and policy: After 9/11, laws like the Patriot Act strengthened global counterterrorism measures, aiming to prevent attacks and dismantle terrorist networks.

“Counter-Terrorism Code”: The Counter-Terrorism Code includes U.S. laws and policies for detaining suspects, intelligence sharing, and international cooperation against terrorism.

VII. KEY QUESTIONS

1. What should the global response be to the September 11, 2001 attacks to eradicate large-scale terrorism?
2. What function should the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee have in coordinating international counter-terrorism efforts?
3. How may states cooperate in criminalizing terrorist financing, enhancing border security, and sharing intelligence?
4. To what extent should counter-terrorism measures be limited by human rights and international law?
5. What responsibilities do member states have to assist countries most at risk from terrorist groups?
6. Are military interventions (such as NATO's engagement in Afghanistan) a legitimate counter-terrorism tactic?

7. How may the UN sustain long-term strategies addressing the root causes of terrorism, rather than solely addressing immediate threats?
8. How can the Committee ensure accountability for human rights violations committed under the guise of counter-terrorism?
9. Should new international aviation and border security standards be enforced after the 9/11 attacks?
10. How should the UN address the balance between state sovereignty and collective security in response to terrorism?

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