

## **Terrorism and the Role of United Nations**

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### **Abstract**

It was post 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001, when UN took certain measures in order to suppress the rising issue of international terrorism, whereby making it mandatory to all the member States to abide by it. Most of these measures involved legislative drafting in order to enact National laws. However, disappointingly no State could fulfill all the requirements suggested by UN. This subsequently led to instability in the procedural aspects of UN whereby burdening the UN. This essay particularly deals with the problems which are faced by UN in implementing its strategies and the subsequent risk involved if the rule of law is eroded if criminal justice i.e. fair trial do not prevent terrorism. It also discusses issues related to failure of UN in achieving a global definition for 'terrorism' and the subsequent troubles created because of it. A brief discussion on how the veto power given by UNSC to the permanent members is undemocratic in its nature which rules out the possibility of action against major terrorist groups unless it is against the interest of all the five countries. A number of strategies and plans are discussed here which includes, international cooperation development, criminal justice measures and the role of United Nations Economic and Social Council in overcoming the present problem by ensuring that the world is fair enough so that people are not forced to engage in violence. The main focus is on the preventive strategies, because when terrorist violence is prevented rather than merely punished it subsequently protects the human rights of the individuals, thereby safeguarding the respect for rule of law and further being enhanced.

**Keywords:** United Nation, Security Council, Terrorism

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United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres in his recent lecture on counter-terrorism said "Terrorism has been unfortunately with us in various forms across ages and continues to be. But Modern terrorism is being waged on an entirely different scale, and notably its geographic span. No country can claim to be immune.". 'Terrorism', the word originated back in late eighteenth century in reference to the rule of Jacobin faction during the period of French revolution, from the word 'Terrorisme', which has its origin from Latin word 'terror', meaning fright or fear. Talking about the scope of terrorism, in the year 1994, the General Assembly's Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, stated that terrorism includes 'criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke state of terror in general public , a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes and that such acts are in any circumstances unjustifiable,

whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, radical, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invokes to justify them'.<sup>1</sup> This definition is however an inclusive definition, which means it's not a complete definition. Despite of seventy years of existence, defining terrorism still remains a task for the UN. This may be because of the fear that UN carries, that it might cause linking problem to any religious faith. One of the major reason for this failure is also that even after the recommendations made by the League of Nations to all the member States to pass national laws regarding terrorism, it never came into effect due disputes relating to extradition.

Unfortunately this situation still exists in today's age. It was back in the seventies, when a Libyan ruler Qaddafi, initiated camps for encouraging and aiding the freedom fighters. The States like USA called it terrorism. It then removed Qaddafi, which deteriorated the condition in Libya even more. Russia, the other power, blamed Western power for formation of 'No-man's land', which indirectly caused occupancy of these vacant places by the Islamic State. This created an atmosphere of stress between the two powers.

However UN further tried to correct it by passing numerous resolutions and other legal instruments thereby binding the member States to follow a particular agenda. The Tokyo Convention marks the beginning this effort. Then the next important convention i.e. the Hague convention along with the Beijing protocol came into existence. The Security Council adopted another resolution, in wake of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 terrorist attacks which killed around three thousand people. New rules were introduced in response to the 9/11 attacks, which included criminalization of assistance to terrorist activities and denial to financial assistance to terrorist groups.<sup>2</sup> The UN ad hoc committee, since 2011, has been examining a draft paper on 'Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism' which also includes a common definition of Terrorism. But till date the confusion remains the same because of conflict of opinions.. Hopefully, in the near future but before it's too late, the member States will realize the gravity of the need to achieve a global definition.

But then even if the definition is achieved, will it solve the problem? No, it will still be very difficult to implement this definition practically. Then what should be the practical approach? As stated by Mr. Guterres, terrorism is with us across various ages. There is no definite time or place to mark exactly when it started and no one knows when it'll end. The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) has more than 170,000 cases involving terrorist activities, which is indeed a monstrous count. Out of which at least 11,000 terrorist attacks occurred in more than hundred countries in year 2016. This brutally killed over 25,000 people and severely injuring 33,000 individuals. A shocking report was submitted

<sup>1</sup> *Measures to eliminate International Terrorism*, G. A. Res. 49/60, U.N. Doc. A/RES/49/60, (Dec. 9, 2014), <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/49/a49r060.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> S.C.Res. 1373, U.N. Doc.S/RES/1373 (2001) (Sept. 28, 2001), [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res\\_1373\\_english.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res_1373_english.pdf).

by United Nations in the year 2016, affirming that three-quarters of all the deaths caused by terrorism were just from five states which are Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria and Somalia.<sup>3</sup> As there seemed no end of this barbaric act and the continuous increasing instances of terrorism an urgent need of planning strategies to overcome this mayhem was felt.

But then it's not easy to implement all the strategies which were planned in numerous resolutions. As it is not only a political issue, but it involves many social, cultural and economic aspects of an individual. Most importantly it is a violation of basic human rights. It is accepted by majority countries across the globe; that development is possible only when every individual is protected from violation of human rights and also it is every individual's right to preserve himself from the barbaric actions of terrorism. In an event of UN, one of the victims of Iraq correctly said:

*“Victims of terrorism have suffered acts of savagery that have attacked our physical and psychological integrity as well as our most fundamental human right- the right to life, to live in peace and safety”*

Truly, the intensity of the loss caused by terrorism can only be understood by the one who actually undergoes through it. As for one of the greatest philosopher of the time, Hugo Grotius, a *ius* or right is a capacity or power possessed by the agent; it is a “faculty” or an “aptitude” of the person. To have a *ius* is to have the ability to engage in certain specified actions without moral or legal sanction. So, for example, when he endows humans with the right to self-preservation, he grants us the power to pursue our own interests without needing the permission or assistance of the state or any other authority. Because rights are centered on the individual subject, one will often read that Grotius propounded a theory of “subjective right”.<sup>4</sup>

But then another question arises, regarding the human rights of the accused. It's seen that the accused are always treated rudely, even before his guilt is proved in the Court of law. What about their rights?

*“The promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law is essential to all components of the Strategy, recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the promotion of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing”<sup>5</sup>*

Countering terrorism doesn't mean avenging the terrorists. Every step taken should be fair and justifiable. As stated above it is complementary to the human rights. UN has already

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<sup>3</sup> Global Terrorism Database, *Overview of the GTD*, <https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>.

<sup>4</sup> Lazar, Seth, “War”, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, (spring 2017 Edition), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2017/entries/war/>.

<sup>5</sup> *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, G. A. Res. 60/288, U.N. Doc. A/RES/60/288 (Sept. 20, 2006), [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/288](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/288).

made variety of guidelines regarding criminalization of terrorism related activities and it has been used by various criminal courts. One of the most interesting aspects has been discussed widely during the 9/11 attacks regarding conviction of the offenders involved in terrorist activities in which the guidelines given by UN has been efficiently followed by the US Criminal Court. The Resolution of 1999, made a landmark change in the conduct of International law. In response to the 9/11 attacks, Mr. Bush had decided to transfer 14 high-profile al-Qaida suspects, including the architect of the attacks, to Guantánamo and would be put on trial before military tribunals. The White House's tribunal plans would have deprived the detainees of the right to see evidence against them that is classified. They could also be prosecuted with evidence obtained through torture. However, Mr. Bush had to face strenuous opposition to his plans for legislation that would set up the tribunals but would also dilute US compliance with a section of the Geneva Convention calling for humane treatment of prisoners. Mr. Bush had justified this by saying that it was necessary to interrogate people who had information about the future attacks. But this would imperil its own soldiers if it watered down its compliance with the Geneva Convention. The White House was forced to seek legal authorization from Congress on the issue of detainees after the Supreme Court ruled last June that the military tribunals for Guantánamo suspects were illegal and violated the convention.

Traditionally, international law becomes national law when countries voluntarily ratify an international treaty. As per criminology, every offense has two aspects 'mens rea' and 'actus reus'. This mental element i.e. 'mens rea' plays an important role while deciding any offense which is grievous in its nature. Here it becomes necessary to explain another very important aspect of criminology i.e. Pinkerton Doctrine. The Pinkerton doctrine basically imposes liability on a conspirator for all crime or offenses committed in furtherance of the conspiracy, the rule imposes liability on the conspirator even if those offenses are actually performed by co-conspirators. Many countries focus their terrorist prosecution through the concept of conspiracy. Thus, if there is a plan, and all members are aware of the essential nature of the plan, and have taken an overt action to further that plan, they can be convicted for the crimes committed by others involved with that plan. For instance, in *United States v. Salameh*<sup>6</sup>, referring to jurisprudence, in order to substantiate the aspect of 'mens rea' the appellate court stated that, co-conspirators can be liable for crimes committed by co-conspirators. A conspiracy amongst several individuals to bomb the World Trade Center Complex. Several of the conspirators challenge their conspiracy conviction on sufficiency of the evidence grounds. In order for the government to succeed in convicting a defendant as a co-conspirator they must demonstrate that there was a voluntary assent from side of the defendant to the plan. Thus, in application to terrorism, the United States courts have utilized the conspiracy doctrine common in criminal law to prosecute those involved in a conspiracy to commit terrorism in the future.

<sup>6</sup> *United States v. Salameh*, 261 F.3d 271; 2001 U.S. App. LEXIS 17431; 152 F.3d 88 (2d Cir. 1998).

UN believes in punishing the convicts of terrorism, but at the same time it believes that such punishment must be just and fair. There are special provisions under UNOTC (United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism) regarding fair trial of the convicts. It has been observed that in the fight against terrorism many States have conducted trials in unjust and partial manner which is against the rule of 'fair trial'. There are various instances where the States have used torturous and inhuman ways to punish terrorists. Under Global Counter- Terrorism strategy and Plan of Action, States undertake to 'make every effort to develop and maintain an effective and rule of law-based national criminal justice system that can ensure, in accordance with obligations under international law, that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in support of terrorist acts is brought to justice, on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute, with due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms'.<sup>7</sup> The States have to follow proper procedure in order to prosecute any person who is charged with the offense of terrorism. There should not be any discrimination between the persons charged with terrorism related offenses and persons charged with any other criminal offenses with regard to the due process rights. Such rights include right to presumed innocence, right to a hearing, right to be tried within reasonable time. All such rights are mentioned under UDHR and ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Right), which ensures just administration.

On the pyramid of global development, protection of individual's human rights stands on the top most strata. Therefore, its salvation is of utmost importance. Human rights are fundamental in nature therefore, United Nations has taken multiple steps for its protection. The term 'human rights' was mentioned seven times in United Nations founding charter, making the promotion and protection of human rights a key purpose and guiding principle of Organization. It was only in 1948, when the UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) brought human rights into the realm of International law.

The UN itself has been victim of terrorism, when late Secretary-General Sergio Vieira de Mello died tragically in the attack on UN offices in Baghdad on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2003. It was then the human cost of terrorism was felt virtually in every corner of the globe. Terrorism, therefore has a direct impact on Human rights affecting an individual's right to life, liberty and physical integrity, along with all these, it also jeopardize peace and security of a nation, directly hampering the State's economic growth.

The formation of UN draws back in 1945 when the US President Franklin Roosevelt for the first time used the name 'United Nations' during the second world war, in which 26 Nations pledged together to fight against the Axis power. Kofi Annan had presented a report to the General Assembly, "Uniting against Terrorism: Recommendations for a global counter terrorism strategy" with a hope for a collective global effort. The main aim of this report was to make the Nations aware about terrorist activities and need to protect their people from terrorism and secure their human rights. While making this report what

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Terrorism Implementation Task Force, *Right to Fair Trial*, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/right-fair-trial>.

Kofi Annan had in his mind was to discourage the Nations from providing support and aid to the terrorist groups. In response to this Summit titled 'Uniting against Terrorism'; the United Nations Secretary-General adopted the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism is a reform first of its kind in the history of UN. The strategy was adopted by the General Assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006, to enhance the efforts at regional, national and international level. The major goal of the Office is to strengthen the relations between Security Council bodies and Member States, and to develop new partnerships between them. It is for this obvious reason that the UN have been conducting various meetings all over the world and visiting the victimized States in order to spread awareness amongst the people of such Nations. UN believes in elimination of terrorism from its root, while doing so it is to be kept in mind that such uprooting should be done amicably with least interference of military forces or any other kind of coercive methods. The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism revolves around the idea of condemning terrorism in all forms and manifestation by any person for whatsoever reason, as it is the major threat to International peace and security. It is extremely important to eradicate terrorism which is based on any religion, civilization or ethnic groups. Many committees have been formed by the UN Assembly in order to maintain the data and submit the reports with reference to such terrorist activities. The Third committee i.e. social, humanitarian and cultural committee and the Sixth committee of the General Assembly deals with counter-terrorism. UN has played crucial role in development of International laws. It being an international organization has received authority to direct any member State to do a particular action.

And this is possible through a basic principle we have studied in International law regarding *Pacta sunt servanda* ("agreements must be kept"). Here one must take cognizance of the important role that International law plays in protection of the Nation States. The UN Charter establishes the rule of *jus cogens*, which are the substantive rules of conduct that prohibits whatever is intolerable because of the threat it presents to the survival of State and its people. For example, it prohibits genocide, tortures and use of force contrary to the UN Charter. The Security Council under UN Charter plays vital role in compliance of *jus cogens*, by making these rules legally binding on the member States. Terrorism has its spread throughout the world. In the early nineties there was a prominent spread of Taliban in Afghanistan, which created an atmosphere of fear in the mind of people around the globe. Where on one hand people in the Southern Asia hoped for development, on the other hand 'Talibanis' were making an attempt to do every possible devastating act to scotch these hopes. UN felt an urgent need to get the situation under control. And to overcome this urgency another important resolution was passed by the Charter in the year 1999. This resolution was made in order to control Taliban and Al-Qaida in Afghanistan for its support to Osama bin Laden.<sup>8</sup> Recently The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) welcomed Afghan Government's renewed

<sup>8</sup> Security Council Committee Pursuant To Resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) Concerning Isil (Da'esh) Al-Qaida and Associated Individuals Groups Undertakings and Entities, S. C. Res. 1267, U.N. Doc. S/RES/1267 (Oct. 15, 1999), [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1267%281999%29](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1267%281999%29).

call for unconditional peace talks with the Taliban and outlining of a framework for peace, which was presented at Kabul Process II conference.

Another issue which cannot be left undiscussed in the matter of UN is the infamous “power of veto”, which is basically the ability of the five permanent members of the Council i.e. USA, Russia, France, UK and China to disallow any non-procedural matter with their negative vote, irrespective of its level of international support. Since beginning of its establishment the permanent members have been using their power of veto in accordance with their national interests. Consequently such use of power rapidly detached from the initial reason for which it was included in the Charter, i.e. preventing the UN from taking direct action against any of its principal founding members. It was after the end of the Cold War and because of the elimination of ideological divisions among the superpowers, the veto power is used quite rarely. However even if it's not used frequently but whenever it was used, it's observed that the veto was exercised or self-interest or the interests of allies. The undemocratic nature of UNSC with P5 having veto power rules out the possibility of action of against major terrorist groups unless it is against the interest of all five countries. To be clearer let's take a recent example where China blocked a bid at the United Nations by the US, France and Britain to list Maulana Masood Azhar, chief of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) militant group, as a global terrorist, stating that there is lack of consensus among the members of the UN Security Council. China which is amongst the permanent member can use its veto power and it has been repeatedly blocking India's move to list Azhar as a terrorist. Here, one can observe how countries for their personal interest use veto power without considering interest of other member States.

Terrorism cannot be eliminated unless each and every Nation whether it is a member State or a permanent member of UN, considers it as its own responsibility. It can be achieved only if all the members think for a common benefit and not for their personal benefit. Many analysts believe that in order to achieve justice to all countries, an increase in the number of seats in the Council is a reasonable step UN can take rather than reforming or removing the veto power. At least there is universal agreement about the former while many controversies flow from the latter. Each of the permanent members has supported one proposal for expanding the Council. India has been a member of UN since 1945 that is even before its independence. No doubt UN has been support to India since then, the Security Council back in 1965, took an important decision by forming UNCIP in order to investigate and mediate the Kashmir dispute. Further after the establishment of United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), The ‘Tashkent Agreement’ was signed between the countries thereby withdrawing military forces on the border.<sup>9</sup> Though the conflicts still subsists, the present condition is still better that would have been if UN had not intervened. But because of the disappointment which the country recently faced it can be concluded that

<sup>9</sup> UN on India-Pakistan, *Tashkent Agreement*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/mission/past/unipombackgr.html#five>.

there is always an uncertainty regarding this support. Therefore India along with other three countries i.e. the Group of Four (G4), an alliance of Germany, Japan, India, and Brazil has initiated a separate effort to present a resolution on the reform of the Council to the General Assembly with the aim of securing permanent seats for each of them. As Richard Woolcott, the last Australian Ambassador to the UN who sat on the Council, said: “You can make a difference if you are on the Security Council”. It seems that this pandemonium has no end and will still continue to persist unless a strict and fair procedure will be followed. According to the recent reports i.e. the Sixth report submitted by Secretary-General regarding the threats posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to International peace and security, even after the recent setbacks faced due to military pressure on ISIL, it continues to hold the ground.<sup>10</sup> The main reason behind this is that, the member States are unable to implement the National laws as discussed above, due to disputes related to extradition. The most valuable contribution that a Nation can put in towards UN is its cooperation. Without States being able to cooperate with the UN, it is impossible that the plan will ever come into existence. After number of meetings being conducted every year by the member States if the State is unable to implement what has been decided, the efforts are futile. Unless all the permanent member decides to overcome terrorism irrespective of their personal interest and without being biased towards the other countries.

But even after all these criticism and controversies, we follow UN and we respect the decisions taken by it. The reason is that UN is guardian organization, it therefore protects the member. It gives hope that one day we can achieve a peaceful world, free of terrorism and violence. UN has always considered development of the world and this is the reason it does not fall short in involving every individual from every corner of the world. It has recognized the power of women, youth and even the victims in achieving a terrorism free world.

Along with all the issues which have been discussed, I believe that we must not miss the evolution which has been brought by the UN in combating terrorism. UN has set up some committees for ensuring involvement of all the people including the disadvantaged groups for example The United Nations Economic and Social Council, which we will be discussing further in more details. UN did not forget to mention the role of women in countering terrorism. There is a growing awareness of significant role played by women in assisting counter-terrorism and violent extremism. The reason why UN believes in strengthening women’s role is because a woman is an influential person in a family. She is the one who conveys awareness to her children forming an interlink between adults and youth. And therefore plays a pioneering role in building a conscious society. In a resolution the Council stated that, the object of the UN is to, “increase its attention to women, peace and security issues in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda,

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<sup>10</sup> *Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat*, S.C. Res. 2368, U.N. Doc. S/2018/80 (Jan. 31, 2018), <https://undocs.org/S/2018/80>.

including in threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”.<sup>11</sup> Truly, it is very important to involve all the people in this strategy, we as a State cannot afford to underestimate the power of any individual. We must not ignore the small contribution made by all the disadvantaged group in standing against terrorism. Michèle Coninx, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), expressed her view on role of women, that, “Gender-blind counter-terrorism policies and practices have the potential of not only being ineffective, but to also negatively impact women and girls’ rights.”<sup>12</sup> This was a valuable message to all the member States, encouraging them to involve women in the planned strategy.

Taking a step ahead in the issue related to terrorism and discussion on the after math of terrorist attacks, it becomes inescapable for us as an individual and UN as a guardian to take effective measures for rehabilitation of the victims of terrorism. One must not disregard the power of the word ‘victim’, simply because it is related to people who are aggrieved and are sufferers. In reality these ‘sufferers’ are the ones who actually know the intensity of the consequences of terrorism. Then Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said in his speech at a launch event of UN, “Far too often, victims are left to suffer in silence as the world around them moves on even as their own lives have been upended. This only exacerbates their trauma”.<sup>13</sup> To be clearer about the above topic, we can draw an analogy with victims of any pandemic disease. We must obviously look for prevention of any disease which is pandemic in its nature but such prevention can only be brought about through analysis of the symptoms which the victim is suffering and by providing them with different medications and finally achieving an effective treatment to eliminate the disease completely. In simple words victims play vital role in countering terrorism through their experiences and therefore, it is important to involve them in the strategy as well.

It is obvious that, such involvement cannot take place until the victims are devoid of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of victims is one of the priorities under the Office of Counter-terrorism. This issue, being global in its nature is difficult to be managed alone by the UN. As a result, in spite of the assistance in the form of funds to the aggrieved Nations, sometimes some victims are left out from the aid provided. It not possible for UN to reach each and every victim individually, neither can it provide full-fledged assistance. In such situation it is the duty of the State to take responsibility to keep a

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<sup>11</sup> *Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts*, S.C. Res. 2129, U.N. Doc. S/RES/2129 (Dec. 17, 2013), [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2129%282013%29](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2129%282013%29).

<sup>12</sup> *CTED Executive Director participates in CSW62 event* (New York: United Nations, 2018), United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/news/2018/03/12/cted-executive-director-participates-csw62-womenagainstterrorism-event/>.

<sup>13</sup> *Report of The UN Conference on Human Rights of Victims*, (New York: United Nations, 2016), [https://www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/sites/www.un.org.victimsofterrorism/files/final\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_conference\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/sites/www.un.org.victimsofterrorism/files/final_report_of_the_conference_0_0.pdf).

check on the distribution of aid. There are few countries which have taken different approach to overcome this lacuna. For example, in US, the Federal Congress enacted an Act for eligible individuals and their families who were victims of terrorist attacks, through which special tax relief are provided to such persons.<sup>14</sup> Here, we can see some similarities between the conditions with regards to internal extremism and terrorism. In my view, sufferers or victims are generally more prone to exploitation. The deficiency in providing facilities and lack of sympathy towards victims can aggravate the problem. And such aggravation can further lead to extremism.

The youths, mostly belonging to the countries which are still under developed are more vulnerable to get involved in such activities. Unemployment, for example is one of the undisputed reasons for youths who fall prey to such activities. Poverty, poor management, unavailability of resources are common problems which are faced by under developed countries. United Nations Development Programme is one such organization which promises to provide assistance to the developing countries through technical and investment cooperation among nations. It may not be the ultimate solution to the problem but it does increase the chances. Along with all these there is a special programme which primarily focuses on youths. Terrorist groups exploit social, economic and political injustices to entice young people through false propaganda that glorifies distorted ideologies. These groups target youth because they are aware of their potential and their strong desire for change. We can only avoid this by spreading awareness, which can be through social media or education at school level. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (EcoSoc) is one such body which promises to eradicate poverty and free this world from all form of tyranny. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. There is a special resolution under the same programme which promises to combat terrorism through cooperation and coordination between the member States and therefore I think it's very important to promote it and make it available to all the people.<sup>15</sup> The EcoSoc aims to end this reign of terror by eradicating poverty and helping people to improve their living standards in order to ensure that no person is deprived of their basic rights. It thereby ensures that world is fair enough to its people and no person is forced to use violence in order to achieve what they need. Obviously nothing can be changed overnight, it need years of planning and tremendous effort to achieve what is planned.

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<sup>14</sup> Department of treasury and internal revenue services, Tax Relief for Victims of Terrorism, (Sept. 2014), <https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.irs.gov%2Fpub%2Firs-pdf%2Fp3920.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usq=AFQjCNEW5sLD4yDAHlbmyQUn4grrV-qp-Q>.

<sup>15</sup> *Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in preventing and combating terrorism*, ECOSOC Res. 2002/19, (Jul. 24, 2002), [www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2002/resolution%202002-19.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2002/resolution%202002-19.pdf).

In the end, we have to wait and keep patience for UN to take necessary measures in order to overcome the discussed issues. The United Nations Security Council is the main body of UN and it holds the responsibility to maintain international peace and security. According to various research and analysis, the UN has many flaws which still subsists in its functioning. The issue regarding the undemocratic nature of UNSC with P5 having veto power which subsequently rules out the possibility of action against major terrorist groups, unless it is against the interest of all five countries which have been explained above in detail. Also, the defect in procedural aspect of UN regarding the trial of accused needs to be corrected and a better and more effective rules should be made. While making such rule the rules of natural justice, fair trial and good conscience should be kept in mind. Overall analysis suggests that UN is in a need of reform which should be complied as soon as possible in order to achieve stability at least in its own rules. Undoubtedly there have been numerous meetings which are being held every year in order to amend these rules but it seems that these are nothing but mere mouth piece. It is because there has been contradiction in opinions between different countries. Every country looks for its own personal interest before the common interest. This where we as a Nation fails to achieve our goal. And now, before the people lose its faith in UN it's time for a major reform that will change the entire scenario. Such reform however should be more sort of preventive reform in order to maintain the respect amongst the people for the rule of law. After years and years of efforts put by the countries in order to cooperate with UN, I believe that this isn't going to be in vein.

In spite of all the above mentioned issues, UNSC remains the only body to deal with all the matters related to international peace and security. And therefore, it is ultimately the only hope we have in order to eradicate terrorism. We as an individual are the unit of State and therefore it's our duty as well to cooperate our State in combating terrorism, to follow the National laws and to help our Nation to emerge out as an example to the world, and to show the potential we hold that no wrong can be tolerated against our peace and integrity.