

UN Security Council

Linkages between international terrorism and organized crime

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The link between terrorist groups and transnational, serious and organised crime presents a complex and evolving threat to international security.

There are many examples of international terrorist groups using sophisticated criminal activities to enhance and fund their operations and evade detection, in particular through kidnapping for ransom, money laundering, drug trafficking, encryption and cybercrime. We know that transnational, serious and organised crime, and terrorist groups are involved in money laundering, drug trafficking and people smuggling activities which span across multiple countries. These illicit activities have helped produce hundreds of millions of dollars to fund and perpetuate international terrorism and crime. There is an urgent need to enhance international cooperation and strategies to prevent terrorists from benefiting from such activities.

Australia recognises the importance of a coordinated global response to the transnational nature of these threats. Australia welcomes the collaboration between the United Nations and other relevant bodies, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) to address these issues. The GCTF's Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism notes that the nexus between

transnational organised crime and terrorism exists in many forms and manifestations, exacerbating the threat to international peace and security.

Recognising the linkages across multiple security issues, the creation of Australia's Home Affairs Portfolio in December 2017 brought together national security policy areas, including terrorism and transnational, serious and organised crime. The creation of Home Affairs has enabled agencies to work closely with partners, domestically and internationally, and to share information more quickly, enhancing our ability to address terrorist threats.

A strong Counter-Terrorism Financing regime is critical to disrupting any links between terrorism and organised crime. Australia is pleased to host the next 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in November 2019. It is a further opportunity to strengthen the global response against terrorist financing.

The annual Southeast Asian regional Counter-Terrorism Financing Summit is another example of multilateral cooperation focused on understanding and responding to terrorism financing and significant financial threats. It harnesses the collective capability of the region's financial intelligence units to develop actionable strategies to combat terrorism financing and serious crime. The next regional Summit will be held in Manila, also in November 2019.

Recognising the need for a comprehensive response to the threat of terrorism, Australia is also strongly advocating for a broad range of counter-terrorism initiatives, including the recent G20 Osaka Leaders'

Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism.

Transnational, serious and organised crime is a complex phenomenon. Australia has committed to a nationally integrated approach involving our health, education, social policy, security and law enforcement agencies, as well as working closely with international partners, academia and industry, to address all aspects of transnational crime to help prevent it being used to support terrorism.