

ECOSOC Resolution 2005/19

Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling all General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on terrorism,

Welcoming the adoption and the forthcoming opening for signature of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,¹

Taking note with appreciation of the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted at the high-level segment of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, which expresses the hope that the ongoing negotiation of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism will be concluded as soon as possible and recognizes that arriving at a possible definition of terrorism is one of the key issues to be resolved,²

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/46 of 2 December 2004, in which it reiterated that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them,

Stressing the need for Member States to ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Mindful of the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to effectively prevent and suppress terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of States,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004, and reaffirming the obligation of States to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, especially with those States where or against whose citizens terrorist acts are committed, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts

¹ General Assembly resolution 59/290, annex.

² A/CONF.203/18, chap. I, resolution 1.

to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens,

Mindful also that acts, methods and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed,

Noting that the Bangkok Declaration emphasizes that enhancing dialogue among civilizations, promoting tolerance, preventing the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures and addressing development issues and unresolved conflicts will contribute to international cooperation, which is among the most important elements to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and reaffirming that no terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances,

Deeply concerned that acts of terrorism continue to be perpetrated, endangering the lives and well-being of individuals worldwide, and expressing its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of terrorist attacks and their families,

Noting the establishment of a working group pursuant to Security Council resolution 1566 (2004),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/153 of 20 December 2004, in which it, inter alia, reaffirmed the importance of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including to contribute to preventing and combating terrorism, and its resolution 59/159 of 20 December 2004, in which it requested the Office to intensify its efforts to provide technical assistance, upon request, in preventing and combating terrorism, by facilitating the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, including training of judicial and prosecutorial personnel, working in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 59/46 of 2 December 2004, in which it welcomed the continuing efforts of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist States to become parties to and to work towards implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols related to terrorism,

Recalling that the Security Council, in its resolution 1535 (2004) of 26 March 2004, recognized the need for the Counter-Terrorism Committee, where appropriate, to visit States, with the consent of the States concerned, and to engage in a detailed discussion to monitor the implementation of Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, and that such visits should be conducted, when appropriate, in close cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and other United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular with its Terrorism Prevention Branch, taking special care of the assistance that might be available to address the needs of States,

Welcoming the initiative by the Secretary-General to establish a task force in his Office for the coordination of the counter-terrorism efforts of the Secretariat,

Welcoming also the adoption of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/80, especially the appointment, for a period of three years, of a special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its contributions towards preventing and combating terrorism through the provision of technical assistance to States, upon request, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, in particular for promotion of the ratification of, accession to and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, as well as for its continuing close cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, and requests the Office to continue such work with international organizations, in particular specialized agencies and other relevant entities of the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the holding of regional and subregional workshops in San José, Tashkent, Port Louis, Praia and Lisbon to follow up on technical assistance activities conducted by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2003 and 2004 by further familiarizing national experts and criminal justice officials with the requirements of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the requirements for becoming parties to and implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and international cooperation agreements, and emphasizes the need for close cooperation, in that context, between the Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, as appropriate;

3. *Welcomes also* the holding of a subregional workshop in Zagreb from 7 to 9 March 2005, which resulted in the Zagreb Declaration on International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism, Corruption and the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime,³ and encourages the Terrorism Prevention Branch, in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,⁴ to continue to ensure proper follow-up to its technical assistance activities, in cases where such follow-up is requested by Member States;

4. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to and to implement the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism as a matter of urgency and, where appropriate, to request assistance to that end from the

³ A/59/754-S/2005/197, annex.

⁴ This new language does not provide a basis for an increase in the regular budget or requests for supplemental increases.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee;

5. *Takes note* of the legislative assistance tools developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and requests the Office, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,⁵⁸ to finalize the draft guide for legislative incorporation and implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism and to develop it further to serve as a training tool when providing assistance to States, upon request, in capacity-building for the implementation of the universal instruments related to terrorism;

6. *Urges* Member States to strengthen, to the greatest extent possible, international cooperation in order to prevent and combat terrorism, including, when necessary, entering into bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance within the framework of the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and other relevant United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and to ensure adequate training of all relevant personnel in executing international cooperation, and calls upon Member States to request assistance to that end from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, when appropriate;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,⁵⁸ to intensify its efforts to provide Member States with technical assistance, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation, including in international, national, regional and subregional forums, in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in particular through training in the judicial and prosecutorial fields in the proper implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, with particular emphasis on the need to coordinate such work with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate;

8. *Recognizes* the role of fair and effective criminal justice systems within the overall framework of the rule of law as an integral component of any strategy to counter terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, whenever appropriate, to take into account in its technical assistance programme to counter terrorism the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and relevant Security Council resolutions;

9. *Notes* the discussions during the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, on its agenda item entitled “International cooperation against terrorism and links between terrorism and other

criminal activities in the context of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”, and requests the Secretariat to take into account any existing links between terrorism and other forms of crime and to pursue an integrated, comprehensive approach in the delivery of technical assistance, emphasizing the transversal relevance of international cooperation;

10. *Urges* Member States to consider the early signing and ratifying of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,⁵⁵ and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, upon request, to promote in the course of its technical assistance activities the speedy ratification and full implementation of that Convention;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Member States that have supported the technical assistance activities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invites all Member States to consider making voluntary financial contributions, in-kind contributions or both;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*36th plenary meeting
22 July 2005*