

Translated from Arabic

Information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 79/129 of 4 December 2024 on measures to eliminate international terrorism

For years now, international terrorism has been one of the most prominent – if not the most dangerous – security concerns facing our world. The seriousness of this phenomenon has increased with the increase in the damage it causes and its negative repercussions for the stability of societies and State entities. Since its emergence, our country has taken the initiative to treat terrorism as a security issue of the utmost importance and priority. It has condemned all forms and types of terrorism, while being careful to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to struggle for liberation. Our country has not stopped at condemnation and denunciation. It has taken practical action by issuing statements that define our country's position condemning all acts of terrorism, whatever their causes or motivations.

Our country has joined international efforts to combat terrorism, given the threat this scourge poses to the values and principles of human rights as guaranteed by the Tunisian Constitution and various international conventions. It has worked to contain this phenomenon, which is incompatible with the tolerant teachings of religion, by ratifying all the international and United Nations counter-terrorism instruments, including the following: the United Nations Convention against the Financing of Terrorism (1999); the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997); the Montreal and Hague Conventions for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation; and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005). It has also ratified regional conventions, statements and strategies adopted by the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior (including the Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism, the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Arab Convention on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the Arab Strategy for Intellectual Security), and the African Union and the Organization of African Unity (Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism). It complies with resolutions issued by the Security Council.

At the national level, our country has worked to harmonize legislative counter-terrorism provisions to ensure their effectiveness. It enacted Organic Law No. 26 (2015) dated 7 August 2015 on combating terrorism and preventing money laundering. That was amended and supplemented by Act No. 9 (2019) dated 23 January 2019, which criminalizes all acts provided for by the relevant

conventions and protocols. It also issued Government Order No. 419 (2019) regulating procedures for implementing resolutions from United Nations entities having to do with preventing terrorist financing and freezing the funds of persons, organizations and entities proven to have been involved in terrorist crimes.

Our country has formulated a National Strategy to Combat Violent Extremism and Terrorism (2023–2027). It serves as a reference framework for enhancing national efforts to achieve security and stability by inoculating Tunisian society against violent extremism to strengthen the immunity of its components against violent extremist ideology and reinforce its resilience to such ideology. It aims to neutralize threats and risks from persons related to terrorism, strengthen the State's immunity, and secure domestic and foreign interests against terrorism. It strengthens mechanisms and means to anticipate, address and deter terrorism; protect the internal and external interests of the State; and develop approaches to managing and addressing the impacts of crises stemming from terrorist operations. It comes after the adoption of the national five-year strategy (2016-2021) that helped to crystallize a coherent vision for all concerned parties. The goal is a comprehensive and multidimensional approach built on the primacy of the rule of law, protection of human rights, enshrinement of the principles of good governance, and consolidation of efforts to ensure complementarity among various interventions and programmes.

Information and communication technology is undergoing rapid and intensive development. The interconnected digital environment that this technology creates poses risks in cyberspace. Terrorist organizations have mined this field and tried to attract operatives skilled in communications technology and the information revolution. That has forced our country to work to formulate a national cybersecurity strategy that covers the entire national cyberspace, including all services, data, networks, platforms, information systems and digital infrastructures critical to the interests of the State. Among the priorities of this strategy is to ensure national stability in the social, economic and political spheres and to inoculate the information infrastructure against risks and threats that could affect our country's national security.

Aware of the seriousness of this scourge in general and its negative repercussions for Tunisian society in particular, our country has accorded the necessary importance to the institutional aspect. Several specialized counter-terrorism bodies have been created (security and judicial poles to combat terrorism and organized crime; two national units for research into terrorist crimes at the levels of the General Directorates of Security and National Guard; and a National Counter-Terrorism Committee). A national border security strategy has been set forth as a mechanism for

supporting the national effort to combat and prevent terrorism and further enhance the capabilities of security and judicial structures involved in investigating, detecting and preventing the commission of terrorist crimes.

In support of the national effort to combat terrorism, the Ministry of Interior has developed a strategic implementation plan based on a proactive approach to preventing this phenomenon. It includes operational principles to ensure field interventions and preventive measures in line with the requirements of the national strategy. The following approach has been adopted:

- Regional committees of a social and security nature will coordinate and oversee the design and implementation of proposals to handle persons who become involved in terrorism. That is within the framework of social inclusion and economic empowerment mechanisms compatible with the specificities of groups with links to terrorism. Provision is made to strengthen the capacities of those involved in programming, implementation, follow-up and assessment, and to make available the financing necessary for reintegration.
- An integrated and multidimensional security system will classify persons returning from armed conflict zones. This will be periodically updated in coordination between the various relevant security bodies, within the framework of working to facilitate the reintegration of persons returning from areas of armed conflict and their families into society. A map will be created of vulnerable targets (vital institutions, tourist facilities, ports, airports, land crossings, and so on) and plans will be drawn up and implemented to secure them (covering crossings with modern security and safety systems, development of biometric systems, equipping sensitive points with monitoring mechanisms and digital platforms according to specifications, developing the capacities of the relevant intervening parties). Greater support is to be provided for security coordination.
- The relevant security agencies will take part in child protection as part of implementation of a national system for the comprehensive care of children returning from armed conflict zones. This would follow procedures in a guidance document adopted by the Ministry of Family, Women, Children and the Elderly.
- Recruitment operations are to be confronted in both physical and digital space (within the framework of respecting rights and freedoms). A national system is to be adopted for digital forensic analysis. There is support for the capacities of Ministry of Interior staff in

the digital and cyber field to protect digital systems from hacking and early detection of all national security threats and crimes created through the virtual space.

- Mechanisms to prevent the financing of terrorism will be developed and supported by intelligence gathering and monitoring of various modern payment methods and unofficial cash and financial transfer systems used by terrorist organizations. That would be in coordination with the various intervening parties (Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Customs, Financial Analysis Committee, and so on).
- The illicit trafficking and use of weapons, ammunition and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials of all kinds will be combated by monitoring chains of possession and transportation. The same goes for imported dual-use materials to prevent them from being used by terrorist groups to manufacture explosives. The capabilities of border control agencies will be developed to combat smuggling to prevent the entry or circulation of these goods through unofficial routes. Joint border plans will be formulated with neighbouring countries to reinforce borders.
- The capacities of specialized security structures in the field of counter-terrorism will continue to be strengthened. An intelligence training plan will be developed to improve intelligence methods by adding a strategic and operational dimension. The capacities of elite operational teams in the field will be enhanced through national and international training courses, mock exercises and white operations.
- Operational capabilities are supported to protect vulnerable targets from the risk of terrorist operations. A security plan has been drafted to protect vulnerable targets, including training, sensitization, periodic surveillance, and implementation of white operations, while strengthening and generalizing coordination mechanisms between the various involved parties.
- Capacities are to be reinforced for the management of crises during and after terrorist operations by setting up crisis management units to deal with crises stemming from terrorist operations. They would be supported by forming a nucleus to train staff, setting forth a well-developed crisis communication plan, preparing a joint procedural guide for managing terrorist crime scenes, and strengthening the capacities of first responders.
- Scientific research capabilities in the field of combating terrorism are supported through the establishment of criminal, scientific and technical laboratories at the level of the Ministry and developing them in line with the requirements of the current phase, especially as it relates to developments of crime in general and terrorism in particular.

- Security cooperation at the regional and international levels is to be stepped up by reviewing bilateral agreements and adapting them to developments in crime in general and terrorist crime in particular. Mechanisms have been established for expedited information exchange with friendly security agencies.
 - A communication plan will disseminate an alternative discourse to undermine extremist and violent discourse. It would lessen the impact of terrorist propaganda by filming awareness-raising clips that reflect the seriousness of the phenomenon of terrorism on our society and its negative repercussions.
 - Reinforcement is provided to the counter-terrorism intelligence system with the announcement of the creation of a National Intelligence Centre. Study is ongoing of a draft law regulating the intelligence field.
 - These measures have borne fruit in the field. The frequency of terrorist operations has decreased in the recent period. Our country has not seen any terrorist operations in the last five years. The activities of terrorist brigades on the western border have decreased in the light of security successes and elimination of their most prominent leaders.
 - To sum up, we can report that our country continues to be determined to exert every effort to combat terrorist crime. It is open to all forms of international and regional cooperation to protect the individual and society in our Arab homeland, defend their rights and property, and lay the foundations of security, stability and prosperity.
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