CBS AON 2025
UNCTC

United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee

STUDY GUIDE

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RENASCENTIA DE LEGATUM

Letter from the Executive Board:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to CBS Assembly of Nations 2025. We are honoured to introduce our committee, the **United Nations Security Council – Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC).**

The agenda for our committee is:

Enhancing multilateral strategies and legal frameworks to combat evolving forms of terrorism, with a special focus on technological threats and fragile regions.

This Background Guide is intended to serve as your foundational reading, but it is by no means exhaustive. We urge you to go beyond the content presented here—explore your allotted country's policies, engage with real-world case studies, and arrive with a robust, critical understanding of the agenda.

We look forward to engaging with your insights, watching you collaborate meaningfully, and witnessing how your ideas shape actionable, rights-respecting outcomes.

Warm regards,

Parthiv Mukherjee, Chairperson, UNSC CTC

Adrish Hossain, Vice-Chairperson, UNSC CTC

Committee Overview: UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee:

Established through Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) in the wake of the September 11 attacks, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) operates under the direct authority of the United Nations Security Council. Its mission: to ensure that Member States fulfill their obligations to counter terrorism through robust, coordinated, and rights-based measures.

Supported by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the committee assesses national legal frameworks, facilitates technical assistance, and promotes multilateral cooperation.

Mandate of the Committee:

The UNSC-CTC's mandate is legally binding and is implemented under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The committee's core functions include:

1. Monitoring compliance with Resolution 1373 and subsequent counter-terrorism resolutions
2. Evaluating national counter-terrorism laws and practices
3. Identifying gaps and vulnerabilities in Member State capacities
4. Supporting technical assistance and international cooperation
5. Promoting compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law

Operational Expectations from Delegates:

Each Member State is expected to:

1. Submit national reports on the implementation of UNSC resolutions
2. Cooperate with on-ground CTED evaluations
3. Participate in dialogues and peer reviews
4. Demonstrate compliance with **FATF recommendations** (Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing)
5. Maintain a rights-respecting approach to border control, intelligence sharing, and legal prosecution

Agenda History – Previous Discussions:

Year	Theme
2020	Misuse of Digital Platforms by Terrorist Entities
2021	Combating the Financing of Terrorism
2022	Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnee Frameworks
2023	Prevention of Terrorist Access to WMDs
2024	Counter-Terrorism in Conflict Zones and Fragile States

Understanding Terrorism: A UN Approach:

There is no universally accepted legal definition of terrorism. However, the **UNGA Resolution 49/60 (1994)** defines terrorism as:

"Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public... for political purposes."

This working definition stresses political motive, intent, and the targeting of civilians.

Delegate Guide: Framing Arguments:

A. Root Cause Analysis
1. Examine socio-political, economic, and ideological drivers
2. Differentiate between transnational and domestic threats

B. Legal and Policy Frameworks
1. Stress on judicial transparency, law enforcement training, and financial regulation
2. Emphasize education, community outreach, and counter-radicalization

C. Alignment with International Law
1. Uphold human rights law, humanitarian law, and refugee protections

D. International Cooperation
1. Encourage collaboration with INTERPOL, FATF, UNODC, and regional bodies

E. Crisis Response
1. Prepare for cyberterrorism, drone warfare, and terrorist activity in post-conflict zones

Key Legal Frameworks & Resolutions:

Instrument	Focus
UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001)	Obliges criminalization of terrorism and creation of national strategies
UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006)	Four-pillar approach including human rights protection
Intl. Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing (1999)	Strengthens AML/CFT regulations
UNSC Resolution 2178 (2014)	Criminalizes travel for terrorism, improves border control
UNSC Resolution 2396 (2017)	Advocates biometric data sharing, passenger data systems

Case Studies in Counter-Terrorism:

Operation Barkhane – West Africa (2014–2023):

A French-led initiative in the Sahel to dismantle terror networks. Though it achieved some tactical wins, its limitations revealed the need for governance reform and local engagement.

AI & Surveillance in Counter-Terrorism:

Global use of AI (China, EU) has enhanced pre-emptive security but has raised major ethical and privacy concerns—especially regarding Xinjiang's surveillance model.

Key Questions for the Committee to Address:

1. Why is a universal definition of terrorism still elusive?
2. What distinguishes Non-State Armed Groups from terrorist entities?
3. Are technological advancements making terrorism more decentralized and dangerous?
4. How can the UNSC CTC adapt to threats like cyberterrorism or bio-terrorism?
5. What are the accountability mechanisms when states or NSAGs misuse counter-terror frameworks?
6. Can UAVs and emerging tech be considered tools for asymmetric terrorism?
7. What regional frameworks can assist capacity-limited Member States?

Documentation Guidelines:

The committee will use four key document formats to assess delegate performance and track diplomatic progress:

Document	Purpose
Policy Paper	Submitted pre-conference; outlines official national stance
Working Group Papers	Submitted post-consultation or crisis; reflect informal proposals
Bloc-Based Papers	Daily summaries of bloc alignments and draft policy trends
Committee Outcome Document	Final deliverable; practical, multilayered response to the agenda

Notice to Delegates:

The Executive Board emphasizes the following conduct guidelines:
1. No AI-generated content is allowed. All material must be original.
2. Refrain from reading pre-written speeches; engage naturally with the flow of debate.
3. Prioritize POIs and logical linkages over monologues.
4. Substantive debate and critical thinking will form the basis of delegate evaluation.

Ideal Speech Structure:

Component	Weightage
Problem Statement	30%
Proposals & Policies	40%
Legal References	15%
Case Studies	15%

In a crisis update, adapt accordingly: focus 60–70% on immediate analysis and crisis solutions.