

United Nations Action to Counter Terrorism

(1) The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by Member States on 8 September 2006 – in the form of a Resolution is a unique global instrument that will enhance regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. More importantly, it is the first time that all Member States have agreed on a strategic approach to fight terrorism.

Analysis:

This is the first time that all Member States have agreed upon the need for a broader or what is termed Strategic Approach towards fighting terrorism. There is now a growing realization that the “war against terror” cannot be waged by military means alone. The gross failures by the United States and coalition partners in Iraq and the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, were lessons to UN partners that a fundamental shift in strategy was necessary. This new strategy must incorporate both military and non-military approaches. Under non-military approaches, issues such as countering the financing of terrorism, enacting appropriate legislation to combating terrorism, ideological and media response is critical to win the war against terrorism. It is a positive step that the UN Member States have agreed upon a Strategic Approach to fight terrorism. The UN must now be empowered with the legitimate authority to see its objectives through.

For more information on Strategic Approaches to fighting terrorism, please visit the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research Website:

http://www.pvtr.org/coreprojects_strategiccounterterrorism_legislative.htm

(2) To recognize that international cooperation and any measures that we introduce to prevent and combat terrorism must comply with our obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

Analysis:

After the US completely disregarded the authority of the United Nations and went ahead unilaterally (with its coalition partners) to wage war against Afghanistan and then Iraq, a war that resulted in a costly blunder, there are now more calls by member states to empower the United Nations to play the critical role in prevent states from waging war on another nation states, unless the UN sanctions or authorizes the action. In the eyes of the Muslim world, the US and coalition partners possessed no grounds for invading Iraq and

they have deemed the invasion of Iraq as an illegitimate act against a Muslim country. This has fuelled the anger and resentment of the rest of the Muslim world against the Americans. This has already led to increased radicalization among Muslims the likelihood of more terrorist attacks in the future are high. Thus, it is both timely and necessary to empower the UN with authority to act in the interest of member countries and prevent unilateral action

(3) To encourage States to implement the comprehensive international standards embodied in the Financial Action Task Force's Forty Recommendations against Money Laundering and Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing.

Analysis:

We assess that the money trail of terrorists have grown increasingly sophisticated and internationally connected. It is now possible to make an online transaction and shift millions of dollars from one country to another in a matter of minutes. Terrorists have been making use of such infrastructure to move funds to where it is needed. This has enable terrorists groups such as Al Qaeda and its associates to carry on conducting attacks in different parts of the world. The only way to disrupt the 'international' money trail of the terrorist is a unified approach whereby all nation states cooperate by enacting similar standards so that terrorist financial activities can more readily be identified and subsequently disrupted.