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36th Annual

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
Sponsored by the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies Friday, October
11, 2024 – Provo, Utah
Welcome Letter

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the 36th Annual Brigham Young University Model United Nations
Conference. My name is Kate Markham, and I am honored to serve as your Security
Council Director. I have competed in and directed Model United Nations conferences
across the country for many years. My most recent Model United Nations experience
has been as a delegate for Brigham Young University, where I study political science,
business, and Spanish. I am excited to join you in the pursuit of diplomatic solutions to
critical global security issues.

This year, the Security Council will consider the following topics:

- I. Addressing maritime crime as a threat to global peace and security
- II. Preventing recruitment by transnational terror organizations

On land and sea, current conflicts rage and new conflicts spark. As the United Nations
body responsible for the maintenance of peace, the Security Council searches for
solutions with the highest degree of urgency. In the last year, reported incidents of
maritime security violations have risen 35%. Considering the complexity of
international law regarding criminal activity at sea, the Security Council bears a
unique responsibility to address this increase. The advent of social media provides
transnational terrorist organizations with greater access to and influence over potential
recruits. These issues are critical and require an effective response from the Security
Council. This responsibility is heightened by the understanding that the resolutions
passed through the Security Council are the only UN resolutions that all Member
States are required to uphold. As representatives in the Security Council, you will be
privileged to engage in the development of these vital solutions.

This background guide will give you direction and support as you build your base of
knowledge on each topic at hand. However, further research will be necessary in order
to participate fully in discussions at the conference. A strong understanding of your
Member State's stances, history, and relationship with these issues will also be of
paramount importance.

As questions regarding the topics, Security Council, and conference as a whole arise,
please reach out to me. Spend time developing your public speaking, researching, and
writing skills in preparation for your role as a Security Council delegate. I look
forward to seeing your hard work come to life at BYUMUN36 and wish you the best
of luck in your efforts to prepare.

Best,
Kate Markham
Director
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Committee History

“A nation has the right to defend itself, but when it comes to the broader issue of peace and security, the legitimacy rests only with the Security Council.”

– Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General (1997-2006)¹

In the wake of WWII, a devastated global community came together to establish the United Nations. Driven by the desire to prevent another world war, 50 nation states drafted and signed the United Nations Charter. This document established a new organization, which would be responsible for ensuring peace and security across the world. Initially, the UN was made up of six primary organizations: the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, the Secretariat, and the Security Council.² The Charter laid out several pillars of democracy for the UN to uphold. The first, maintenance of international peace and security, was made principally the responsibility of the Security Council. The body’s first session was held on January 17th, 1946, in London. Since then, UN Headquarters in New York City have become the official residence of the Security Council.³

The Security Council is comprised of 15 Member States. Ten of these members are non-permanent, elected by majority for terms of two years by the General Assembly.⁴ The other five members are permanent. Frequently referred to as the P5, these states possess veto power. If any P5 member votes against a proposed Security Council action, said action automatically fails. When veto power is not used, Security Council decisions are passed by an affirmative vote by at least 9 of the 15 total members.⁵ Since 2022, a new procedure has been introduced at the UN. When a veto is used, the President of the General Assembly is required to call an emergency session of the GA to debate the use of the veto.⁶

¹ “Kofi Annan Interview: The Full Transcript.” *Www.ft.com*, www.ft.com/content/c2d31f14-7caa-11e0-b9e3-00144feabdc0.

² ---. “History of the United Nations.” *United Nations*, United Nations, 2025, www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un.

³ ---. “What Is the Security Council? | Security Council.” *Main.un.org*, 2024, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/what-security-council.

⁴ ---. “What Is the Security Council? | Security Council.” *Main.un.org*, 2024, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/what-security-council.

⁵ Security Council Report. “The Veto : UN Security Council Working Methods : Security Council Report.” *Security Council Report*, 13 Feb. 2024, www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-security-council-working-methods/the-veto.php .

⁶ “General Assembly Adopts Landmark Resolution Aimed at Holding Five Permanent Security Council Members Accountable for Use of Veto | UN Press.” *Press.un.org*, 26 Apr. 2022, press.un.org/en/2022/ga12417.doc.htm.

Issues are brought to the Security Council based on their severity and potential to threaten global peace. The Security Council can use several methods to resolve these issues, many of which are unique to the Council.⁷ To resolve security threats without force, the Security Council may choose to script peace terms, launch investigations, or dispatch special envoys and missions.⁸ Regarding matters of urgent or immediate crisis, the Council can utilize unique powers including issuing ceasefire directives, deploying UN Peacekeeping forces, and establishing neutral zones in areas of physical conflict.⁹ To maintain peace, the Security Council also has the power to apply enforcement strategies such as sanctions, embargoes, suspension of diplomatic ties, and joint military action between states. These are capabilities that only the Security Council possesses.¹⁰

The Security Council has passed numerous resolutions, which serve as the formal record of the body's decisions. Significant examples of these resolutions and their powers are S/RES/678 which authorized Member States to use all necessary means to end the Iraqi invasion into Kuwait,¹¹ S/RES/1244 which deployed Peacekeeping forces to end ethnic cleansing in Kosovo,¹² and S/RES/1718,¹³ which imposed sanctions on North Korea in retaliation for the state's first nuclear testing operations. It is important to remember that resolutions such as these cannot be implemented in the face of disapproval from any P5 Member State. In recent years, resolutions regarding ongoing conflicts, such as that between Hamas and the state of Israel, have been vetoed or passed with abstention.¹⁴ Interstate relationships— positive or negative— always play a role in deliberations of the Security Council.

⁷ United Nations. "Functions and Powers | Security Council." *Main.un.org*, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/functions-and-powers.

⁸ United Nations. "Functions and Powers | Security Council." *Main.un.org*, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/functions-and-powers.

⁹ United Nations. "Functions and Powers | Security Council." *Main.un.org*, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/functions-and-powers.

¹⁰ United Nations. "Functions and Powers | Security Council." *Main.un.org*, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/functions-and-powers.

¹¹ Year: 1990), UN Security Council (45th. "Resolution 678 (1990) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 2963rd Meeting, on 29 November 1990." *Digitallibrary.un.org*, 29 Nov. 1990, digitallibrary.un.org/record/102245?ln=en&v=pdf.

¹² Year: 1999), UN Security Council (54th. "Resolution 1244 (1999) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 4011th Meeting, on 10 June 1999." *Digitallibrary.un.org*, 10 June 1999, digitallibrary.un.org/record/274488?ln=en&v=pdf.

¹³ "Programme of Work | Security Council." *Un.org*, 2019, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/programme-work.

¹⁴ Mishra, Vibhu. "US Vetoes Security Council Resolution Demanding Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza." *UN News*, 4 June 2025, news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164056.

Conclusion

The Security Council is a body unlike any other. The Council's unique power to create binding resolutions, dispatch UN forces, and implement direct action in response to conflict is a critical aspect of global security. Participating Member States should strive to uphold their responsibilities as the protectors of global peace in their preparation for upcoming deliberations, and during the committee session itself.

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This is former Secretary-General Kofi Annan for the Financial Times, in which he discusses the role of the Security Council and its unique mandate as compared to other UN bodies.

Mishra, Vibhu. “US Vetoes Security Council Resolution Demanding Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza.” *UN News*, June 4, 2025. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164056>.

This is a UN journalist’s report on the groundbreaking General Assembly resolution addressing unchecked veto power.

United Nations. “Functions and Powers | Security Council.” Accessed August 15, 2025. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/functions-and-powers>.

This is the official UN office website on the function and powers of the Security Council. It outlines the capabilities of the Security Council, as well as how it differs from other UN bodies.

Security Council Report. “The Veto: UN Security Council Working Methods.” February 13, 2024. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-security-council-working-methods/the-veto.php>.

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United Nations. “History of the United Nations.” 2025. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un>.

This is the history of the United Nations, according to the office of the United Nations. It discusses the impact of WWII, the failure of the League of Nations, and other elements that led to the success of the United Nations.

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United Nations Security Council (54th Year). “Resolution 1244 (1999): Adopted by the Security Council at Its 4011th Meeting, on 10 June 1999.” June 10, 1999. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/274488?ln=en&v=pdf>.

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United Nations. “Programme of Work | Security Council.” 2019. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/programme-work>.

The UN Security Council’s description of their operations and functions.

Topic One: Reducing Maritime Crime to Promote Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

“Without maritime security, there can be no global security,”
–António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Introduction

Maritime crime is a significant global issue, made more critical by its many different facets. Piracy and hijacking are forms of criminal activity that often take place on the water. Pirates off the east coast of Africa and in the Sulu and Celebes seas demonstrate this problem with persistent attacks on commercial, civilian, and military vessels alike. Maritime activity plays an increasing role in drug and arms smuggling operations, a problem both for coastal Member States where criminal activity is just offshore, and for the states into which illicit goods are trafficked. Furthermore, human trafficking, especially of migrants and children, frequently occurs via ocean routes. Each of these three threats grows in urgency as criminal actors refine their methods.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 directs the focus of the United Nations toward the establishment of Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.¹⁵ Addressing these three key aspects of criminal activity at sea is an essential step toward achieving SDG 16. Piracy and hijacking are closely related to target 16.4, which calls for combating organized crime and illicit financial and arms flow, as well as returning all stolen materials and goods.¹⁶ There has been a significant rise in piracy in the form of armed robbery in recent years, often perpetrated by organized crime rings¹⁷. Addressing this issue will serve as a significant step towards achieving SDG target 16.4. This target applies directly to the increase in maritime trafficking of illicit goods, which are often smuggled by and for criminal elements. Concerning human smuggling, target 16.2 directly calls for the end of child and human trafficking.¹⁸ Most victims— especially smuggled migrants— will spend at least some time at sea. This emphasizes the need for action regarding trafficking of all kinds, especially via maritime routes. More generally, Target 16.1 calls for the end of violence everywhere. Achieving this target is another critical lens through which to view the issue of

¹⁵ United Nations. “Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.” *The Global Goals*, 2022, www.globalgoals.org/goals/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions/.

¹⁶ United Nations. “Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.” *The Global Goals*, 2022, www.globalgoals.org/goals/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions/.

¹⁷ Lamorena, J. (2024). *Maritime piracy dropped in 2024, but crew safety remains at risk* – ICC – Commercial Crime Services. [icc-ccs.org](https://icc-ccs.org/maritime-piracy-dropped-in-2024-but-crew-safety-remains-at-risk/). <https://icc-ccs.org/maritime-piracy-dropped-in-2024-but-crew-safety-remains-at-risk/>

¹⁸ United Nations. “Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.” *The Global Goals*, 2022, www.globalgoals.org/goals/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions/.

maritime security.¹⁹ Finally, target 16.a notes the need to support each Member State as they increase the capacity of their national institutions to prevent violence and organized crime. International action must be paired with domestic support to address this issue from all angles. While piracy, goods trafficking, and human smuggling are not the only maritime criminal activities, learning more about these elements will serve as a strong base from which to begin your research. Keep in mind the many forms maritime crime can take as you research the issue at hand, and potential solutions to address it.

Existing Framework and Recent Action

Addressing criminal activity at sea presents unique challenges. The vast majority of maritime crime occurs beyond these boundaries. Historically, this has made it difficult to determine what laws were applicable and which legal bodies were responsible for enforcing them. In an attempt to create an international standard, the United Nations General Assembly passed the Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1958. This was the first officially recognized international treaty to provide standards and regulations for state action at sea, establishing that countries have the right to utilize natural resources and control direct economic activity up to 200 miles off their coastal borders and to exercise sovereignty and legal authority 12 miles beyond coastal borders.²⁰ Most critically, it defined piracy and gave Member States the right to seize and prosecute pirate ships under their own laws. The framework established in UNCLOS I served as the basis for UNCLOS II, a comprehensive legal standard for maritime law.²¹ Six legal zones of the sea were outlined, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and High Seas.²² These zones designate which laws are applicable in each zone and who is responsible for enforcing them. Finally, UNCLOS II designed legally binding dispute settlement pathways through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and International Court of Justice.²³ These two treaties are the foundation of international maritime law.

¹⁹ United Nations. “Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.” *The Global Goals*, 2022, www.globalgoals.org/goals/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions/.

²⁰ Rafferty, John. “Are There Laws on the High Seas?” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/story/are-there-laws-on-the-high-seas.

²¹ “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea II.” United Nations, 1982.

²² “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea II.” United Nations, 1982.

²³ “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea II.” United Nations, 1982.

Unfortunately, the principles drawn out in these treaties have not been sufficient to address the rise in piracy, smuggling, and trafficking. Additional issue-specific resolutions have been passed in recent years to fill this gap. Somalian piracy has been an enormous issue since the mid-2000's, as it causes disturbances in critical international shipping routes²⁴. Ten resolutions have been passed since 2008 regarding this issue alone. Among the most notable are S/RES/1816,²⁵ which increased global anti-piracy regulations and S/RES/2316,²⁶ which augmented financing efforts for Somali law enforcement and courts. Similar efforts have strengthened action in the Gulf of Guinea and other piracy hotspots through resolution S/RES/2018.²⁷ In a joint statement released in May 2022, Ghana, Norway, and other Member States reported that pirate activity had halved since the implementation of S/RES/2018²⁸.

Regarding the smuggling of illicit goods, UN action frequently comes through the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), a subsidiary of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The GMCP's primary function is providing support to domestic law enforcement agencies in the form of training.²⁹ Over 8,500 police and customs officers across 109 countries have been trained by the GMCP in vessel search and seizure, as well as drug and arms sweeps at ports.³⁰ UNODC hosts forums and conferences wherein states can share problems and solutions regarding maritime smuggling and related issues. The most recent such gathering, held in Finland in May of this year, provided a space for idea-exchange regarding the protection of critical infrastructure from organized criminal operatives.³¹ The Security Council also took action regarding the ocean smuggling of illicit goods. The 2016 resolution S/RES/2292

²⁴ "Increasing Pirate Attacks in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean." *Risk Intelligence*, www.riskintelligence.eu/analyst-briefings/increasing-pirate-attacks-in-the-gulf-of-aden-and-the-indian-ocean.

²⁵ "Resolution 1816 (2008) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 5902nd Meeting, on 2 June 2008." *United Nations Digital Library System*, UN, 2 June 2008, digitallibrary.un.org/record/627953?v=pdf.

²⁶ "Resolution 2316 (2016) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 7805th Meeting, on 9 November 2016." *United Nations Digital Library System*, UN, 9 Nov. 2016, digitallibrary.un.org/record/847783?ln=en&v=pdf. Accessed 18 June 2025.

²⁷ UN Security Council. "S/RES/2018." *Security Council Report*, 2018, www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/unowa-s-res-2018.php. Accessed 18 June 2025.

²⁸ "Joint Statement on Piracy and Maritime Crime." *Norgesportalen*, 22 Nov. 2022, www.norway.no/en/missions/un/news/joint-statement-on-piracy-and-maritime-crime/. Accessed 18 June 2025.

²⁹ "Global Maritime Crime Programme Report ." *Mailchi.mp*, 2025, mailchi.mp/64c386572976/gmcp-update-17613054. Accessed 18 June 2025.

³⁰ "Global Maritime Crime Programme." *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/index.html.

³¹ "Conference of the Parties to UNTOC." *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/conference-of-the-parties.html.

temporarily authorized Member States to seize and dispose of arms dealers violating existing weapons embargoes off the coast of Libya.³²

Human trafficking is an issue frequently addressed by the United Nations. The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) outlines the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, which serves as the primary international legal framework to combat the smuggling of migrants.³³ Additionally, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, augments the UNTOC Convention.³⁴ These are the most critical global standards for the prevention and punishment of human trafficking. The 2015 UNTOC, similar to S/RES/2292, authorized member state law enforcement agencies to search and seize vessels when there is reasonable suspicion of human smuggling. This resolution has been renewed for a 12-month period every year since it was initially passed. In 2024, UNODC established the Action against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.³⁵ This global initiative expanded UNODC's ground presence in vulnerable countries, expanding training efforts for domestic and regional law enforcement agencies. These efforts combined have had a significant positive impact in the world of maritime crime. However, they have not been entirely sufficient in eradicating illegal actions in international waters.

Current Problems and Areas of Action

There are several global hotspots for piracy, the most notable being the Gulf of Aden, just off the coast of Somalia. Hijackings and armed robbery by pirates have been increasing in recent years.³⁶ This rise is partially attributed to Houthi rebel activity, which often demands the majority of law enforcement's focus. Other pirate activity is commonly observed off the West Coast of Africa in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as across the Singapore Strait. While global rates of piracy tend to fluctuate, they have undergone a near 35% increase between 2024 and 2025, making the need for progress more urgent than ever.³⁷

³² "S/RES/2292 (2016) | Security Council." *Un.org*, 2016, [main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/2292-%282016%29](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/2292-%282016%29).

³³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime." *Unodc.org*, United Nations, 15 Nov. 2000, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html.

³⁴ "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime." *OHCHR*, United Nations, 15 Nov. 2000, www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons.

³⁵ "UNTC." *Un.org*, 2009, treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-2&chapter=21.

³⁶ Baird . "Somali Pirates' Resurgence Complicates Global Shipping." *Baird Maritime*, 22 Mar. 2024, [nam.org/somali-pirates-resurgence-complicates-global-shipping-30537/?stream=series-input-stories](https://www.bairdmaritime.com/somali-pirates-resurgence-complicates-global-shipping-30537/?stream=series-input-stories).

³⁷ Baird . "Somali Pirates' Resurgence Complicates Global Shipping." *Baird Maritime*, 22 Mar. 2024, [nam.org/somali-pirates-resurgence-complicates-global-shipping-30537/?stream=series-input-stories](https://www.bairdmaritime.com/somali-pirates-resurgence-complicates-global-shipping-30537/?stream=series-input-stories).

Since 2024, UNODC has seen success in facilitating drug and arms seizure operations. Notable actions include addressing cocaine shipping out of Brazil, crystal meth transport in the Western Indian Ocean, and heroin and cannabis smuggling in the Eastern Indian Ocean. Advances in smuggling technology have led to a rise in drug and arms circulation worldwide.³⁸ For example, narco-submarines allow smugglers to transport illicit goods undersea, beyond the detectable range accessible to most law enforcement agencies. With increasing terrorist activity in Lebanon, Yemen, and other coastal states, arms smuggling is becoming a more lucrative operation by the day. It is critical that action is taken to prevent the dealing of illicit goods overseas as soon as possible.

It is estimated that the number of human trafficking victims worldwide rose approximately 7% from 2022 to 2023, with numbers steadily growing.³⁹ The majority of these victims are women and children, many of whom are also migrants. These vulnerable populations are at unique risk for trafficking, especially for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.⁴⁰ It is estimated that approximately 83% of human trafficking victims are brought through at least one port as they are transported from the area of collection to their trafficker's chosen destination. Due to the intersectionality between human trafficking and port security, further safeguards and law enforcement measures are necessary to create a safer world.

Conclusion

While there is still much maritime criminal activity to address, the above resolutions and initiatives establish a strong foundation for future actions. Take inspiration from previously enacted solutions, but be cognizant of their limitations. Researching current UN frameworks, your committee mandate, and your country's stances and policies will be critical to your success in the conference. Be creative in your preparation— this nuanced issue calls for a nuanced solution.

³⁸ “Explainer: What Is Maritime Crime?” *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, 2021, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2025/June/explainer_-_what-is-maritime-crime.html. Accessed 18 June 2025.

³⁹ “New Data Indicates an Increase of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in the EU.” *United Nations: Office of Migration and Home Affairs*, 7 Apr. 2025, home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-data-indicates-increase-victims-trafficking-human-beings-eu-2025-04-07_en.

⁴⁰ “New Data Indicates an Increase of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in the EU.” *United Nations: Office of Migration and Home Affairs*, 7 Apr. 2025, home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-data-indicates-increase-victims-trafficking-human-beings-eu-2025-04-07_en.

Questions to Consider

1. What solutions can be implemented that haven't already been attempted?
2. What has caused previous solutions to fail or not resolve the above issue completely?
3. How can we ensure that future solutions address future advancements in methods and technological capability?
4. How can the Security Council employ its unique mandate without causing increased interstate conflict or tensions?
5. How can countries less affected by maritime crime be motivated to participate in and contribute to future solutions?

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“Conference of the Parties to UNTOC.” *United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime*. Accessed August 15, 2025. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/conference-of-the-parties.html>.

This source reports on UNODC’s annual conference on halting transnational organized crime. It discusses what was covered, which states were in attendance, and future actions.

“Explainer: What Is Maritime Crime?” *United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime*, 2021. Accessed June 18, 2025. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2025/June/explainer-what-is-maritime-crime.html>.

In this source, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines maritime crime, as well as actions taken by the office and its subsidiaries to prevent criminal activity at sea.

“From Port to Port: The Human Trafficking Epidemic at Sea.” *Maritime Fairtrade*, February 10, 2023. <https://maritimefairtrade.org/from-port-to-port-the-human-trafficking-epidemic-at-sea/>.

In this source, the recent rise in maritime human trafficking is discussed in detail. Contributing factors, routes, methods, and available statistics are utilized.

“Global Maritime Crime Programme.” *United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime*. Accessed August 15, 2025. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/index.html>.

This is a detailed description of the history, mandate, and previous actions of the Global Maritime Crime Programme, a subsidiary office of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

“Global Maritime Crime Programme Report.” *Mailchi.mp*, 2025. Accessed June 18, 2025. <https://mailchi.mp/64c386572976/gmcp-update-17613054>.

This source lists and describes training initiatives implemented by the Global Maritime Crime Programme through UNODC, including civilian, law enforcement, and customs training.

“Increasing Pirate Attacks in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.” *Risk Intelligence*. Accessed August 15, 2025. <https://www.riskintelligence.eu/analyst-briefings/increasing-pirate-attacks-in-the-gulf-of-aden-and-the-indian-ocean>.

This report discusses the rising number of piracy incidents in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of East Africa and on both sides of the Indian Ocean.

“Joint Statement on Piracy and Maritime Crime.” *Norgesportalen*, November 22, 2022. Accessed June 18, 2025. <https://www.norway.no/en/missions/un/news/joint-statement-on-piracy-and-maritime-crime/>.

This is the joint report from Ghana, Norway, and several other Member States regarding the effectiveness of Security Council resolutions addressing pirate activity in the Gulf of Guinea.

Jones, Timothy. “Piracy on the Rise across the World — Maritime Watchdog.” *DW.com*, April 15, 2025. Accessed June 18, 2025. <https://www.dw.com/en/piracy-on-the-rise-across-the-world-maritime-watchdog/a-72249554>.

This is a maritime watchdog’s report on rising levels of piracy worldwide, especially in the above-mentioned hotspots. It also briefly considers factors contributing to this rise.

Mishra, Vibhu. “US Vetoes Security Council Resolution Demanding Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza.” *UN News*, 4 June 2025, news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164056.

This is a UN journalist’s report on the groundbreaking General Assembly resolution addressing unchecked veto power.

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Topic Two: Addressing the Expansion of Transnational Terror Organizations

“The members of the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. They reaffirmed the need for all States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law...”

– Security Council Press Release, June 26, 2025⁴¹

Introduction

For decades, terrorism has been a global concern. As a result of political instability, economic and social marginalization, and globalized recruitment, terrorist organizations continue to spread.⁴² In 2025, the number of terror attacks increased by 63 percent.⁴³ Many of these attacks occurred in Western Member States as compared to previous years, demonstrating an expansion of terror beyond its epicenters in the Sahel and Middle East.⁴⁴ Concerningly, terrorist attacks are being perpetrated increasingly by youth.⁴⁵ In 2025 in Western Member States, 20% of suspected terrorists were under the age of 18.⁴⁶

The self-renewing nature of terror organizations through recruitment requires immediate and substantive action. As attacks themselves become more widespread and more deadly,⁴⁷ organizations’ recruitment methods are adapting in tandem.⁴⁸ To reduce the impact of terrorism, the UN must address the root cause of the issue by limiting the number of people brought into terror organizations. There are three key factors that have been linked to rises in terror

⁴¹ Security Council Press Statement on Terrorist Attack in Syria | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2025, June 26). UN.org. <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sc16103.doc.htm>

⁴² Pandit, P. (2025, March 4). *Terrorism is spreading, despite a fall in attacks*. Vision of Humanity. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/terrorism-is-spreading-despite-a-fall-in-attacks/>

⁴³ Vision of Humanity. (2025). *Global Terrorism Index*. Vision of Humanity; Institute for Economics & Peace. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>

⁴⁴ Vision of Humanity. (2025). *Global Terrorism Index*. Vision of Humanity; Institute for Economics & Peace. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>

⁴⁵ Obonyo, R. (2019, December 23). *African youth and the growth of violent extremism* | *Africa Renewal*. Un.org. <https://africarenewal.un.org/en/magazine/african-youth-and-growth-violent-extremism>

⁴⁶ Vision of Humanity. (2025). *Global Terrorism Index*. Vision of Humanity; Institute for Economics & Peace. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#/>

⁴⁷ Pandit, P. (2025, March 4). *Terrorism is spreading, despite a fall in attacks*. Vision of Humanity. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/terrorism-is-spreading-despite-a-fall-in-attacks/>

⁴⁸ *Global youth must be empowered to combat terrorism, UN forum declares*. (2018, April 12). UN News. https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/04/1007191?utm_

recruitment: state instability,⁴⁹ marginalization,⁵⁰ and advanced recruitment tactics.⁵¹ Each of these three elements should be taken into account when considering ways to address terror recruitment.

Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions is directly related to this topic.⁵² Peace and justice cannot be secured in the face of violent extremism. In addition, each of the three factors that contribute to terror recruitment is linked to its own SDG. State instability is associated with a lack of investment in education, healthcare, and opportunity for work.⁵³ These gaps leave room for terror organizations to exercise their influence. SDG 1: No Poverty, directs Member States to invest in support systems for their most vulnerable through target 1.3. Additionally, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, notes the impact of labor opportunity through target 8.6, which calls for reduced youth unemployment.⁵⁴ Marginalization is addressed by SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, which calls for the empowerment and inclusion of refugees, ethnic and religious minorities, and other vulnerable populations.⁵⁵ Marginalization is one of the most direct predictive factors for radicalization.⁵⁶ Pursuing SDGs 16, 1, 8, and 10 will be necessary for the reduction of terror recruitment by limiting the external factors that make individuals more vulnerable to extremist ideology.

Existing Framework and Recent Action

⁴⁹ Pašagić, A. (2020). Failed States and Terrorism: Justifiability of Transnational Interventions from a Counterterrorism Perspective. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 14(3), 19–28. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26918297?seq=1>

⁵⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2018). *Counter-Terrorism Module 2 Key Issues: Drivers of Violent Extremism*. [www.unodc.org](https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-2/key-issues/drivers-of-violent-extremism.html). <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-2/key-issues/drivers-of-violent-extremism.html>

⁵¹ Conway, M. (2017). Determining the Role of the Internet in Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Six Suggestions for Progressing Research. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 40(1), 77–98. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610x.2016.1157408>

⁵² United Nations. (2025). *Goal 16 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. [Sdgs.un.org](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16); United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>

⁵³ Mosley, P. (2012). Political violence, state instability, and poverty. *Oxford University Press EBooks*, 78–93. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199692125.003.0004>

⁵⁴ United Nations. (2015). *Goal 8 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. United Nations. https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8#targets_and_indicators

⁵⁵ United Nations. (2024). *Goal 10 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. United Nations. https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10#targets_and_indicators

⁵⁶ Smith, A. (2018). *Risk Factors and Indicators Associated With Radicalization to Terrorism in the United States: What Research Sponsored by the National Institute of Justice Tells Us*. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/251789.pdf>

The primary international legal framework addressing terrorism is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS),⁵⁷ adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 through resolution A/RES/60/288.⁵⁸ It comprises four pillars: first, measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; second, measures to prevent and combat terrorism; third, measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard; and fourth, measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.⁵⁹ This action plan is reviewed and adjusted biennially to meet the needs of Member States and adapt to terrorist elements. The most recent review took place in 2023, and the next is set for 2026.⁶⁰ The biennial review schedule was altered in 2023 to coincide with the 20-year anniversary of the strategy. Additionally, the resolution passed at the review in 2023– A/RES/77/298– calls upon the Secretary-General to compile a report of potential alterations to improve and adjust the UNGCTS to be presented for review in 2026.⁶¹

In 2016, Secretary-General António Guterres published a report (A/RES/858) on the UNGCTS prior to the 5th biennial review of the UNGCTS.⁶² Until this report was presented, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) operated as a subsidiary of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA). Based on the Secretary-General's suggestion in A/RES/858, the UNCCT was reassigned to the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).⁶³ This office now has greater capacity to address its responsibilities as the UN's primary center for counter-terrorism research and operations. The UNOCT, as established by A/RES/60/288, fulfills five functions: providing leadership on General Assembly counter-terrorism actions to the Secretary General, coordinating that the UNGCTS is implemented effectively, strengthening capacity for individual Member States to fulfill the UNGCTS, improving visibility and advocacy efforts for UN counter-terrorism efforts, and ensuring that counterterrorism efforts are prioritized by the United Nations as a whole.⁶⁴ Additionally, the UNOCT works closely with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Compact (UNCTC), which coordinates counter-terrorism work

⁵⁷ United Nations. (2006). *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy | Office of Counter-Terrorism*. Un.org. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

⁵⁸ A/RES/60/288. (2006). UN.org. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/60/288>

⁵⁹ United Nations. (2006). *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy | Office of Counter-Terrorism*. Un.org. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

⁶⁰ United Nations. (2006). *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy | Office of Counter-Terrorism*. Un.org. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

⁶¹ United Nations. (2006). *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy | Office of Counter-Terrorism*. Un.org. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

⁶² UNITED NATIONS. (n.d.). *About us | Office of Counter-Terrorism*. Wwww.un.org. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/about>

⁶³ UNITED NATIONS. (n.d.). *About us | Office of Counter-Terrorism*. Wwww.un.org. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/about>

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through organizations such as INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, and the Financial Action Task Force.⁶⁵

The Security Council has also taken independent action to address terrorism. S/RES/1373, passed as a response to the 9/11 terrorist acts in the United States, directs all Member States to suppress and punish the financing of any terrorist activity. It also requires Member States to halt passive support for terrorists by directly suppressing terrorist recruitment.⁶⁶ Beyond the legal directives of S/RES/1373, the resolution also establishes the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).⁶⁷ The CTC is responsible for overseeing the practical implementation of the terrorism regulations established in S/RES/1373. The CTC is similar to the UNOCT, with the notable distinction that it works exclusively with Security Council resolutions. Because the Security Council's counter-terrorism resolutions are legally binding, the CTC is the organization that ensures legal counterterrorism directives are followed by all Member States through research, analysis, and on-the-ground support.⁶⁸ As further regulatory resolutions such as S/RES/1624, S/RES/2178, S/RES/2396 and others passed, the CTC's oversight scope has increased.⁶⁹

While each of these measures has helped significantly to control and punish terrorist activity worldwide, it has not been successful in eliminating terrorist activity. To prevent overall expansion, foiling terrorist recruitment efforts should be a significant focus of the Security Council. With state support systems weakened by instability, marginalization increasing, and access to potential recruits growing through social media, terrorist recruitment is easier than ever before. It is worth noting that while action to address attacks, arms acquisition, and financial access have been taken by the UN, there has been a lack of discourse about preventing recruitment. It is essential that further solutions are explored to prevent future generations from being harmed by and participating in terrorism.

Current Problems and Areas of Action

Conflict and instability are on the rise worldwide. Since 2020, levels of violent conflict have doubled.⁷⁰ Armed conflict significantly reduces the ability of a state to manage terrorism. As a result, a greater number of civilians are exposed to violence, state support for law enforcement is

⁶⁵ *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact | Office of Counter-Terrorism.* (n.d.). [Www.un.org. https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/global-ct-compact](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/global-ct-compact)

⁶⁶ United Nations Security Council. (2001). *Resolution 1373 (2001)*. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res_1373_english.pdf

⁶⁷ United Nations Security Council. (2001). *Resolution 1373 (2001)*. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res_1373_english.pdf

⁶⁸ *What We Do | Security Council - Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).* (n.d.). [Www.un.org. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/what-we-do](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/what-we-do)

⁶⁹ *What We Do | Security Council - Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).* (n.d.). [Www.un.org. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/what-we-do](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/what-we-do)

⁷⁰ ACLED. (2024, December). *ACLED Conflict Index.* ACLED. <https://acleddata.com/conflict-index/>

reduced, and social services become difficult to access. This leaves far more of a state's population vulnerable and in poverty.⁷¹ The higher the rates of poverty in the state, the more likely its population is to become radicalized.⁷² Current hotspots for conflict are the Sahel region, Syria, the Ukraine/Russia border, and the Gaza strip, amongst others.⁷³ In these areas, instances of terrorism have also increased greatly.⁷⁴ Interstate violence frequently correlates to increases in terrorist attacks. Resurgences of activity from the Houthis in Yemen and Hezbollah in Jordan demonstrate this pattern.⁷⁵ To address this issue, it is critical that the UN commit to conflict in areas where terrorist activity and interstate conflict overlap, such as the Sahel in sub-Saharan Africa and the western coast of the Mediterranean.⁷⁶

Beyond conflict, marginalization is also a strong predictive factor for terrorist activity and contributes to a growing alternative form of terrorism: lone-wolf terrorism. 93% of fatal terrorist attacks in Western states, far from epicenters of terrorist organizations, have been carried out in this form.⁷⁷ It is characterized by a single actor, typically distanced from the core group that recruited them.⁷⁸ Groups or individuals that experience perceived social, economic, or educational isolation due to religion, identity, or ethnicity are statistically more likely to be vulnerable to radical rhetoric.⁷⁹ As such, immigrants, refugees, and minorities are especially

⁷¹ Thayer, B. A. (2009). Considering population and war: a critical and neglected aspect of conflict studies. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 364(1532), 3081–3092. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2009.0151>

⁷² Bhui, K., Warfa, N., & Jones, E. (2014). Is Violent Radicalisation Associated with Poverty, Migration, Poor Self-Reported Health and Common Mental Disorders? *PLoS ONE*, 9(3), e90718. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0090718>

⁷³ Council on Foreign Relations. (2024). *Global Conflict Tracker | Council on Foreign Relations*. Global Conflict Tracker. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker>

⁷⁴ Institute for Economics & Peace. The Ukraine Russia Crisis: Terrorism Briefing, Sydney, March 2022. Available from: <http://visionofhumanity.org/resources> (accessed Date Month Year).

⁷⁵ Khan, H. U. (2024). An Analytical Investigation of Consequences of Terrorism in the Middle East. *Journal of Economic Criminology*, 4, 100067–100067. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconc.2024.100067>

⁷⁶ Deputy Secretary-General's remarks at the 2024 High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa" | United Nations Secretary-General. (2024). Un.org. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/deputy-secretary-general/statement/2024-04-22/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-the-2024-high-level-african-counter-terrorism-meeting-%E2%80%9Cstrengthening-regional-cooperation-and-institution>

⁷⁷ Pandit, P. (2025a, March 4). *Evolving threat of lone wolf terrorism in the West*. Vision of Humanity. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/evolving-threat-of-lone-wolf-terrorism-in-the-west/>

⁷⁸ Bakker, E., & de Graaf, B. (2010). Lone Wolves: How to Prevent This Phenomenon? *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.19165/2010.2.01>

⁷⁹ Ellis, B. H., Miller, A. B., Sideridis, G., Frounfelker, R., Miconi, D., Abdi, S., Aw-Osman, F., & Rousseau, C. (2021). Risk and Protective Factors Associated With Support of Violent Radicalization: Variations by Geographic Location. *International Journal of Public Health*, 66. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2021.617053>

susceptible to terrorist recruitment.⁸⁰ In impoverished or low-opportunity areas, feelings of isolation and hopelessness can have a similar effect.⁸¹ The last 10 years have seen a rise in ‘lone-wolf’ violence— instances of terrorism perpetrated by remotely recruited individuals acting alone.⁸² In contrast to state instability leaving room for terrorist organizations to act as groups, marginalization opens the door for radicalization of individuals. To prevent this rising terror threat, it is critical that the Security Council support states in monitoring, rehabilitating, and deradicalizing potential lone-wolf terrorist threats. Further action to support states in integrating marginalized communities is also necessary. While organized terror is more common in unstable states, organizations can take advantage of extremist individuals almost anywhere.

UN research and crime agencies note a significant increase in use of social media by terrorist elements to radicalize new recruits.⁸³ This has led to a surge of terrorist activity from vulnerable children and youth.⁸⁴ To address this new wave of terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) created the Roadmap on Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups.⁸⁵ This roadmap also has an associated training program. The program provides direction for legal rehabilitation and reintegration of youth who have been associated with radical organizations. To address this rise, significant action must be taken to regulate the ability of organizations to recruit from social media and other digital platforms. Additionally, greater support should be provided to states in which youth are particularly vulnerable to terrorist recruitment and radicalization.

Conclusion

Terrorist activity is on the rise worldwide. Attacks are becoming deadlier, recruitment is more wide-reaching, and the factors that contribute to radicalization are far-reaching.⁸⁶ To prevent

⁸⁰ *Can Discrimination Contribute to Feelings of Radicalization?* (2020). Apa.org. <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/08/discrimination-radicalization>

⁸¹ Ellis, B. H., Miller, A. B., Sideridis, G., Frounfelker, R., Miconi, D., Abdi, S., Aw-Osman, F., & Rousseau, C. (2021). Risk and Protective Factors Associated With Support of Violent Radicalization: Variations by Geographic Location. *International Journal of Public Health*, 66. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2021.617053>

⁸² Miller, Gregory D. “Blurred Lines: The New ‘Domestic’ Terrorism.” *Perspectives on Terrorism*, vol. 13, no. 3, 2019, pp. 63–75. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26681909>. Accessed 1 July 2025.
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⁸³ *UNCRI Report: Misinformation and Misuse of Technology*. (2025, February 5). Unicri.org. <https://unicri.org/Publications/Malicious-use-social-media-terrorists-extremists-criminals>

⁸⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *Children Associated with Terrorism*. United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/expertise/children-associated-with-terrorism.html>

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⁸⁶ Smith, A. (2018). *Risk Factors and Indicators Associated With Radicalization to Terrorism in the United States: What Research Sponsored by the National Institute of Justice Tells Us*. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/251789.pdf>

expansion of attacks and violence, existing frameworks and programs should be strengthened to address current organizations and their activity, and further action to reduce factors that create vulnerability to radicalization must be taken. Beyond that, opportunities for recruitment via social media and other remote means must also be limited. Terrorist expansion is a worldwide issue with many factors; each of which should be carefully considered in order to achieve progress.

Questions to Consider

1. What solutions will comprehensively address each facet of terrorist expansion?
2. What existing frameworks, policies, and resolutions have been successful? Where can they be improved to create stronger results?
3. How can future solutions adapt to advancements in terrorist recruitment strategies and means of attack?
4. How can the Security Council achieve significant progress on this issue without increasing tensions or worsening existing conflicts?
5. What role will state sovereignty play in potential solutions? How can the Security Council respect the right of each state to govern itself while also providing effective support regarding terrorist expansion?

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Bhui, Kamaldeep, Nasir Warfa, and Edgar Jones. 2014. "Is Violent Radicalisation Associated with Poverty, Migration, Poor Self-Reported Health and Common Mental Disorders?" *PLoS ONE* 9, no. 3: e90718. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0090718>.

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"Can Discrimination Contribute to Feelings of Radicalization?" 2020. *Apa.org*. <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/08/discrimination-radicalization>.

This journal reports on findings regarding whether perceived discrimination is a contributing factor to radicalization and extremist recruitment.

Conway, Maura. 2017. "Determining the Role of the Internet in Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Six Suggestions for Progressing Research." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 40, no. 1: 77–98. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610x.2016.1157408>.

This journal article discusses the role of social media and other internet platforms in terrorism through the lens of future academic research.

Council on Foreign Relations. 2024. *Global Conflict Tracker*. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker>.

The Global Conflict Tracker monitors active conflicts in 163 countries. It also makes note of terrorist activity.

United Nations. 2024. "Deputy Secretary-General's Remarks at the 2024 High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting: 'Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa.'" *Un.org*. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/deputy-secretary-general/statement/2024-04-22/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-the-2024-high-level-african-counter-terrorism-meeting-%E2%80%9Cstrengthening-regional-cooperation-and-institution>.

This press release summarizes the key points of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General's remarks on terrorism in Africa and future action to combat it.

Ellis, Bruce H., Amanda B. Miller, Georgios Sideridis, Regina Frounfelder, Damiano Miconi, Saida Abdi, Fatuma Aw-Osman, and Cécile Rousseau. 2021. "Risk and Protective Factors Associated With Support of Violent Radicalization: Variations by Geographic Location." *International Journal of Public Health* 66. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2021.617053>.

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