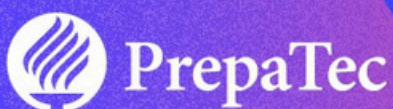




# COUNTER TERRORISM COMMITTEE

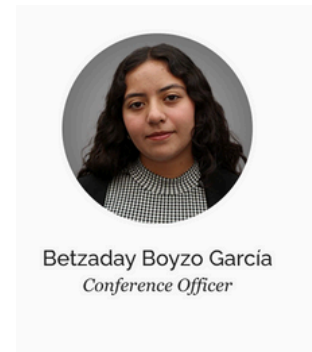
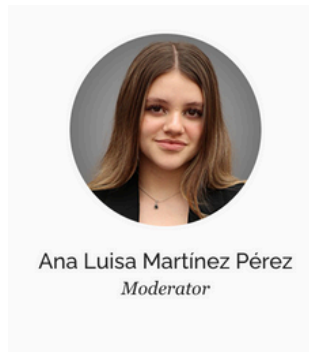
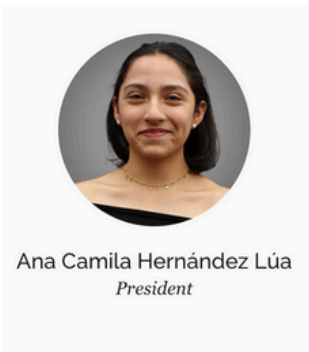


MORELIA 2024



Dear delegates, it is an honor to welcome you to the Counter Terrorism Committee of MUNMX, Morelia 2024. Ana Camila Hernández Lúa will serve as your president, Ana Luisa Martínez Pérez as your moderator, and Betzaday Boyzo García as your conference officer.

We look forward to your active participation in this committee over the next few days. Should you need any further information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us.



### **Counter Terrorism Committee**

The Counter Terrorism Committee was made by the United Nations after resolution 1373 on September 28th of 2001 in the wake of the September 11th attacks on the United States of America. It is made up of all the fifteen members of the Security council and counts with an executive direction (CTED).

The main objective of this committee is to achieve the abolition of terrorism as well as taking on actions that effectively support the cooperation of the state members to include an upgrading system in the capacity of the nations to fight, face and prevent the financing of terrorism.



**Topic A: The threat of ISIL in West Africa and countering the financing of this.**

West Africa faces an extremely high terrorist threat. This region includes the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

ISIL (The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), formerly known as Al-Qaeda in Iraq and later the Islamic State of Iraq, was established in April 2004 by Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, who pledged allegiance to Osama Bin Laden. The group targeted Coalition and Iraqi forces, as well as civilians, aiming to pressure foreign powers to leave Iraq, reduce local support for the U.S. and Iraqi governments, and attract recruits.

Iraq suffered a series of setbacks starting in 2007 (resulting from the combination of Sunni civilian resistance and a surge in Coalition and Iraqi Government operations against the group) and rebounding in late 2011 after Coalition forces retired, amid growing Sunni discontent with the Shia dominated Iraqi Government. ISIL also expanded its presence in Syria and established al-Nusra Front, an organization that has fought against the Syrian government during the civil war with the objective of abolishing the power of president Bashar al-Assad and establishing an Islamic state inside Syria; as a cover of its activities.

Disputes over the group's strategic direction in Syria led to conflict and ultimately ISIL's disavowal by al-Qa'ida (a terrorist group known for multiple attacks globally, one of them being the 9/11 attacks) in February 2014, setting the stage for ISIL's subsequent challenge to al-Qa'ida for leadership for the global extremist. In June of 2014, ISIL declared the establishment of an Islamic caliphate and called on all Muslims to pledge to the group; since then, ISIL has announced the establishment of eight provinces outside of Iraq and Syria.

ISIL's territorial control in Iraq and Syria, access to Western foreign fighters, and significant financial resources represent an ongoing and growing threat to the United States and the global community.

Since September 2014, ISIL leadership has repeatedly called for attacks against U.S. and Western interests, publishing these appeals in its English-language magazine *Dabiq*. ISIL members and sympathizers have responded by planning or conducting attacks at an unprecedented pace: at least 37 plots between July 2015 and February 2024. ISIL is currently led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

## General data

- According to the BBC in 2023 there were a total of 838 global attacks claimed by The Islamic State. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67819988>
- The Security Council stated that up to 2024, the Islamic State West Africa Province continued to generate funds locally from criminal activities, including extortion of fishers and farmers. [https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4037252/files/S\\_2024\\_117-EN.pdf](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4037252/files/S_2024_117-EN.pdf)
- According to the council on foreign relations in 2023, over 36,000 people have been killed in the conflict involving ISIL-affiliated groups in Nigeria since 2015. This includes direct attacks and indirect consequences like starvation and disease from the conflict. <https://www.cfr.org/search?keyword=+people+have+been+killed+in+the+conflict+involving+ISILaffiliated+groups+in+Nigeria+>
- As of 2023 ACLED reported that ISIL affiliates have intensified over 500 violent incidents over the same year. <https://acleddata.com/>
- In the case of the UN Security Council Resolution 2734, they assure that in 2024 over 160 individuals associated with ISIL are being sanctioned. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/164/83/pdf/n2416483.pdf>

## Solutions and treaties

Some existing solutions include the *Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)*: One of the oldest and the most successful examples of ASIS (Ad-hoc Security Initiatives) in Africa. It was created in 1994 as a Nigerian force tasked with combating cross-border crime within Lake Chad. Members of MNJTF are Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. It is mandated to create a safe environment in the affected areas, facilitating the implementation of the stabilization tools and providing support for humanitarian assistance. It consequently plays an important role in creating the foundation for the RS-SRR to be implemented and supports the actual procedure when relevant.

The task force was expanded to include units from Chad and Niger in 1998 and, in 2012, to cover counter-terrorism operations in response to the emerging threat from Boko Haram, an Islamic terrorist sect founded in Nigeria by Muhammed Yusuf in 2002. Initially, the group aimed to eradicate the perceived injustices in Nigeria, but after Yusuf's death, the situation turned violent.

- MNJTF boosted cooperation among the countries surrounding Lake Chad which effectively stopped the advance of Boko Haram in 2015-2016 and it caused it to split up into several factions.
- In 2017-2019, it managed to free civilians in areas controlled by the terrorist group and ensured the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Another relevant solution is the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel), founded in 2014 as a regional, intergovernmental organization. It provides an institutional framework to promote development and security within its five member countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

G5 Sahel created the Joint Task Force in 2017 to strengthen the fight against threats to peace and security and bolster development. Its main objectives are to collect, process, exploit and share relevant criminal information among a diverse range of actors in a complex environment.

### **General achievements**

- Enhancement of civilian protection: Increasing security forces' awareness of the impact of their operations on civilians, preventing harm, and contributing to the accountability of troops in case of violations.
- Mechanisms to ensure accountability for human rights violations: The OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), in collaboration with G5 Sahel and its participating countries, has developed and implemented effective monitoring and investigation systems to track, verify, and establish responsibility for allegations of international human rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) violations.

### **Key questions**

In order to help you compliment the information of your posture, feel free to consider the following questions:

- How is your delegation affected, directly or indirectly, by the group ISIL?
- Does your delegation support directly or indirectly this or a different criminal organization? Which one? How does it support it?
- What security measures has your delegation enforced against the financing of terrorism?
- What are the alliances that can diminish this issue? Is your delegation a part of one?
- What are the principal sources of financing on the threat of ISIL?
- What is the role of the international financial institutions on the financing of ISIL?
- What is the impact of ISIL in West Africa?
- What are the consequences of ISIL's actions for the communities in West Africa?



### **Suggested links for the investigation**

United Nations, <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15787.doc.htm>

Security council report, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2024/02/counter-terrorism-briefing-on-the-secretary-generals-strategic-level-report-on-isil-daesh-6.php>

Relief web, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/eighteenth-report-secretary-general-threat-posed-isil-daesh-international-peace-and-security-and-range-united-nations-efforts-support-member-states-countering-threat-s2024117-enarruzh>

United Nations, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/civil-society-perspectives-isil-africa-key-trends-and-developments>

Financial Action Task Force, <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Methodsandtrends/Tf-west-africa.html>

United Nations, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/west-africa>

United Nations, <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15787.doc.htm>

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67819988>

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<https://www.cfr.org/event/conversation-foreign-minister-yusuf-tuggar-nigeria>

DagDok. (2024, May 2). *Counter terrorism committee*. Dagdok.org.  
<https://www.dagdok.org/w/dd/en/un-system/security-council/counter-terrorism-committee>

INTERPOL. (n.d.). G5 Sahel. INTERPOL. <https://www.interpol.int/es/Delitos/Terrorismo/Proyectos-de-lucha-contra-el-terrorismo/G5-Sahel>

Onuoha, C. and Yaw Tchie, A. (2023). A question to win hearts and minds. Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network. [https://trainingforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/EPON\\_MNJTF.pdf](https://trainingforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/EPON_MNJTF.pdf)

Security Council. (2024, 31 January). Eighteen report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat. Security Council.

[https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4037252/files/S\\_2024\\_117-EN.pdf](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4037252/files/S_2024_117-EN.pdf)

Unidad De Análisis Financiero || Republica Dominicana. (n.d.). CTC. Unidad de Análisis Financiero || Republica Dominicana. <https://www.uaf.gob.do/index.php/nacional-e-internacional/ctc>

United Nations. (2024, 10 June). Security Council Resolution 2734. Security Council.

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/164/83/pdf/n2416483.pdf>

United Nations. (n. d.). Civil society perspectives: ISIL in Africa - Key trends and developments. Security Council - Counter Terrorism Committee. <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/civil-society-perspectives-isil-africa-key-trends-and-developments>

United Nations Human Rights. (n.d.). Project supporting the G5 Sahel Joint Force with Implementation of the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Compliance Framework. OHCHR.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/africa-region/project-supporting-g5-sahel-joint-force-implementation-human-rights-and-international-humanitarian>



**Topic B: Countering the recruitment of children for terrorists' purposes.**

In 2022, approximately 7,622 children were recruited and used by terrorist groups, whether as spies, cooks, combatants, or human shields. Whatever their role, children involved in conflicts are exposed to extreme cruelty, with severe implications for their physical and psychological well-being.

An example of this is Boko Haram in Nigeria, it is an Islamic terrorist group that was led by Abubakar Shekau from its founding in 2009 until his death in 2021. The group recruits children for hostile activities. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), some boys were forced to attack their families to show loyalty to the group; and girls were forced to clean, cook, carry equipment or weapons and even marry. OHCHR was informed that minors are increasingly being used as human shields and to detonate bombs.

In 2015, a 12-year-old girl was used to detonate a bomb at a bus station in Damaturu, Yobe, Nigeria, killing 7 people. Similar cases have been reported in other countries such as Cameroon. During Boko Haram's attacks, children and unmarried women were used to identify individuals who refused to join the group.

The reasons for recruitment of children by terrorist groups are complex and may vary depending on the country or situation but one of the main reasons is vulnerability; children living in conflict zones are often orphans and this makes them an easy target. Moreover, combat needs, when a group loses fighters, they turn to children to replenish fighters. Children are used because of their obedience and their ability to follow orders without a question.

This issue has consequences for both physical and mental health of the children; they suffer from psychological traumas such as depression, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), or other disorders. They don't receive the education that is required and most of the time they are illiterate. Also, children who have been indoctrinated may become followers of the group's ideology.

Today, the recruitment and exploitation of children for terrorist purposes remains a serious problem and one of the most frequent violations in armed conflicts.

**General data**

- As per UNICEF between 2005 and 2022 around 300,000 children were involved in armed conflicts worldwide (most of them being recruited by terrorist organizations) . UNICEF. (2021, December 22).

- According to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, in 2023 children between 9 and 18 years old are often recruited by terrorist groups. Vinet, F.
- Since 2005 UNICEF and various NGOs work on the demobilization and reintegration programs to assist former child soldiers and combat the recruitment efforts of terrorist organizations. United Nations. (2017).
- The UN Security Council Resolution (1612) states that in 2005 International frameworks focused on monitoring and reporting the recruitment of children in conflict areas and promoting their reintegration. Vinet, F. (2020).
- According to *Zehra Eroğlu Can* in 2022, it was determined that DAESH enslaved 3500 people in the areas it controlled, and 800 to 900 children were kidnapped in Mosul alone to be raised as terrorists. Can, Z. (2022).

### **Solutions and treaties**

The recruitment of children for terrorist purposes is a grave violation of international law and human rights, addressed by several international treaties and initiatives. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), particularly its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC), prohibits the recruitment of children under 18 into armed groups. Other key treaties like the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) define child recruitment as a war crime, ensuring accountability for those responsible. Additionally, UN Security Council Resolutions such as UNSCR 1379 and UNSCR 1612 call for measures to prevent child recruitment and establish monitoring systems to protect children from terrorist organizations.

International conventions like the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 and the Paris Principles and Commitments emphasize the need for states to take immediate steps to prevent the use of children in armed conflict, including by terrorist groups. Regionally, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child strengthens these efforts in African nations, where terrorist recruitment of children is prevalent. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy further promotes the integration of preventive strategies such as education, social services, and youth empowerment to address the root causes of recruitment, including poverty and radicalization.

Alongside legal frameworks, various initiatives focus on rehabilitation and reintegration of children recruited by terrorist groups. Programs provide psychosocial support, education, vocational training, and family reunification to break the cycle of recruitment.

Moreover, international coalitions like the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) aim to safeguard schools, which are often targeted for child recruitment. Efforts to combat online radicalization, such as those led by the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), also play a crucial role in preventing terrorist groups from exploiting vulnerable children. Together, these solutions aim to not only prevent recruitment but also to ensure long-term recovery for affected children.

### Key questions

- How is your delegation affected directly or indirectly by the recruitment of children for terrorist purposes?
- What is your delegation's stance on this issue?
- Is your delegation taking any legal strategies to prevent the recruitment of children by terrorist groups? Are they effective?
- How current is the recruitment of children in your delegation?
- Which ONG's or ORGs are taking actions to prevent/ fix this issue?
- How has this issue developed through the years?
- What are the main factors that make children vulnerable to this problem? What economic, social, and psychological factors influence this vulnerability?
- What measures exist regarding the rehabilitation and reintegration process of children who have been recruited by terrorist groups?

### Support links

UNODC <https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Child-Victims/Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups the Role of the Justice System.E.pdf>

UNODC <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2024/February/new-unodc-research-on-child-recruitment-and-exploitation-by-terrorist-groups-shows-need-for-a-united-front-on-child-protection.html>

Dergipark.org <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/2981516>

United Nations Indonesia <https://indonesia.un.org/en/257014-strive-juvenile-indonesia-safeguarding-children-terrorism-and-violent-extremism?>



Nina H.B Jorgensen [http://www.qil-qdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/02\\_Child-Soldiers\\_JORGENSEN\\_FIN-.pdf](http://www.qil-qdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/02_Child-Soldiers_JORGENSEN_FIN-.pdf)

Humanitarian Law and Policy <https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2019/11/20/child-soldier-counter-terrorism/>

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UNICEF. (2021, December 22). *Children recruited by armed forces or armed groups*. UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-recruited-by-armed-forces#:~:text=Thousands%20of%20children%20are%20recruited>

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United Nations. (2017). *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*. United Nations Peacekeeping. United Nations. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration>

United Nations. (n.d.). *Infancia*. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/es/global-issues/children>

United Nations. (n.d.). *New UNODC research on child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist groups shows need for united front on child protection*. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2024/February/new-unodc-research-on-child-recruitment-and-exploitation-by-terrorist-groups-shows-need-for-a-united-front-on-child-protection.html>

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UNODC. (2017). *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System*. UNODC. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Child-Victims/Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups the Role of the Justice System.E.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Child-Victims/Handbook%20on%20Children%20Recruited%20and%20Exploited%20by%20Terrorist%20and%20Violent%20Extremist%20Groups%20the%20Role%20of%20the%20Justice%20System.E.pdf)



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