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Sample Position Paper

General Assembly

Advancing Global Counter-Terrorism Strategies

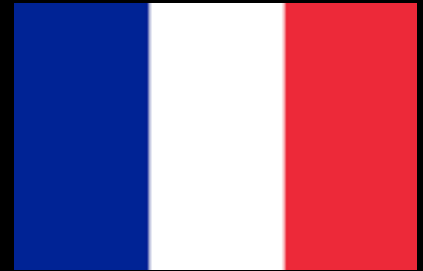
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International terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It is not a new topic and the act of terrorism has not remained static, it has evolved over the years. Countering terrorism is also not new and it is still a challenge worldwide, countries are taking major measures and putting lots of effort into it. France has a lengthy history of terrorist attacks that date back to the 19th century, in 2019 it occupied 38th place on the “Global Terrorism Index” and was classified as a country with high terrorism impact. The list is based on their Global Terrorism Index that it is measured by four indicators: incidents, fatalities, injuries, and property damage. In 2015, France suffered the single deadliest terrorist attack in French history, with the attack including shootings, hostage-taking, and suicide bombings. France has certainly had recent attacks. In 2021, there was a record of 3 acts of terrorism. It is believed that the COVID-19 pandemic, and of course the several strategies adopted by governments all around the world have contributed to the suppression of the activities of violent extremist and terrorist groups, the new “normal” generated by the crisis also performs a role in this. Even though the attacks have diminished, the pandemic yielded terrorists a new opportunity to modify strategies for their attacks. During the pandemic people had spent lots of time online, terrorists strived to take advantage of this to spread hate propaganda

and provoke mistrust toward public institutions. As previously stated, the pandemic might have reduced opportunities for some types of terrorism-related problems, but has increased opportunities for others and make it more difficult to counter-terrorism.

The United Nations has actively addressed terrorism through the General Assembly, which has discussed the issue multiple times and established the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, reviewed every two years. In June 2021, during its seventh review, the Assembly adopted a resolution urging stronger actions against emerging threats and prioritizing the Strategy's advancement. France collaborates closely with the UN, being a significant contributor to both the regular and peacekeeping budgets, and is particularly engaged in combating terrorism, including sanctions against Daesh and Al-Qaeda. Additionally, France has enhanced the European Union's counter-terrorism capabilities, leading initiatives like the European Passenger Name Record system to monitor air travel and combat the misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

France is advocating for countries to focus on identifying and cutting off terrorist financing to weaken these groups. Historically, terrorists have disguised their financial activities as humanitarian efforts. The French delegation proposes a system to block fund-raising and urges nations to report suspicious transactions to the UN. Additionally, France emphasizes the need to combat online propaganda that spreads hate and misinformation, which can undermine trust in governments. They suggest strategies to improve communication and resilience against these threats.

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