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Sample Position Paper

General Assembly

Advancing Global Counter-Terrorism Strategies

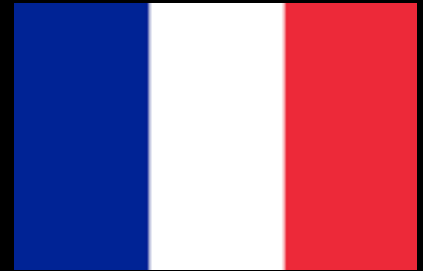
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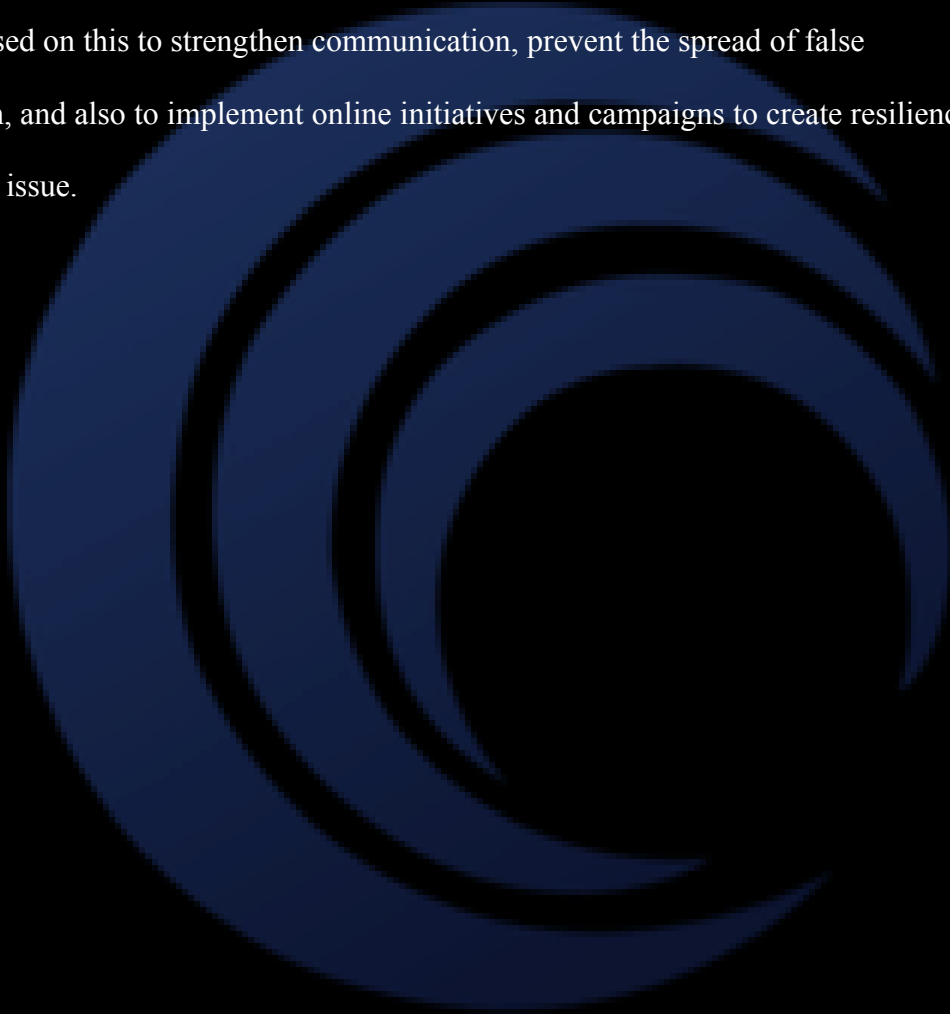
International terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It is not a new topic and the act of terrorism has not remained static, it has evolved over the years. Countering terrorism is also not new and it is still a challenge worldwide, countries are taking major 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 tried to help by getting involved in this problem. The General Assembly has discussed this topic multiple times now, they even created the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which they review every two years. In June 2021, the General Assembly had their seventh review and their most recent one, in which they adopted a resolution that called for stronger action against the new emerging threats and claimed that they should make a priority the advancement of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. France works hand in hand with the UN to overcome this issue, it is one of the largest contributors to the United Nations regular budget, and also to the peacekeeping operations budget. It is especially involved in the fight against terrorism and is actively contributing to the sanctions regime against Daesh and Al-Qaeda (ISIS), with the last update being in 2017. France has also developed and strengthened the means available for the European Union to counter-terrorism, and along with their members, they have made multiple advances. The advances include the creation of the European Passenger Name Record system to monitor air travel, fighting the adoption of the Internet for terrorist purposes, and the reinforced Europol and its European Counter-Terrorism Center.

France aims for countries to make it a priority to identify the financing resources of the terrorist to drain them, in that way the terrorist groups would be weakened. In the past, it is known that the groups used cover-ups to hide their financial activities from authorities, this included claiming they were financing humanitarian relief operations when in fact their donation contributed to financing their activities. The delegation of France proposes to develop a system to prevent them from raising

and moving funds and well it encourages each country to be aware and to keep track of any suspicious movements of funds, and report it to the UN. France also believes another important aspect that should be prioritized is the fight against terrorist propaganda, particularly on the Internet, to avoid the spread of hate propaganda, misinformation, and conspiracy theories online that could cause mistrust in the government, and the creation of protests. The country proposes to build another strategy based on this to strengthen communication, prevent the spread of false information, and also to implement online initiatives and campaigns to create resilience against this issue.



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