Agenda Item: Combating Terrorism in the Middle East and Northern Africa

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1. Letter From the Under Secretary-General of DISEC

Esteemed delegates,

It is with great honor that I welcome you all to the sessions of the Disarmament and International Security Committee as the Under-Secretary-General.

This year, we tackle an agenda that is both familiar and deeply complex: "Combating Terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)." While this issue has been a subject of debate for decades, its resolution continues to elude the global community. Terrorism in MENA is not only a threat to neighboring countries but also disrupts the political and military stability of the world at large, especially with the interference of global powers such as the United States. This geographically strategic region has suffered the consequences of extremist ideologies and external involvements, and today we are here to delve into its root causes, examine its far-reaching impacts, and explore pathways toward lasting solutions.

We have done our utmost to provide a comprehensive study guide, but its value truly comes to life when complemented by your in-depth research. I strongly encourage you to focus on your own country's position and policies, ensuring that you arrive prepared with well-crafted speeches and solid arguments. Should you have any questions regarding procedures or other concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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2. Introduction to the Committee: What is DISEC?

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

3. Introduction to the Agenda Item

a. Key Terms

Terrorism: criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.

Terrorism has been described as:
- The use of violence or of the threat of violence in the pursuit of political objectives
- Acts committed by non-state actors (or by undercover personnel serving on the behalf of their respective governments)
- The intentional use of lethal force against civilians, and/or destructive force against civilian areas, buildings or infrastructure.
- Acts reaching more than the immediate target victims and also directed at targets consisting of a larger spectrum of society.

   Root causes of terrorism may include:

   Political Grievances: The lack of political representation, oppression, and unresolved disputes often drive individuals toward radicalization. Addressing these grievances through inclusive governance and peaceful conflict resolution is essential to countering terrorism.

   Economic Inequality: Poverty, unemployment, and economic disparity create fertile ground for extremist ideologies. Ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities can help mitigate this risk.

Social and Cultural Tensions: Discrimination, marginalization, and ethnic or religious tensions foster resentment and alienation. Promoting tolerance and inclusive societies can reduce vulnerabilities to radicalization.

Weak Governance and Rule of Law: Corruption, state failure, and lack of law enforcement allow terrorist groups to operate unchecked. Strengthening institutions and the rule of law is critical in combating terrorism.

Historical and Global Dynamics: Historical conflicts, colonial legacies, and the impacts of globalization contribute to environments conducive to terrorism. Recognizing and addressing these long-standing grievances is key to fostering peace.

International terrorism: Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations (state-sponsored).

Domestic terrorism: Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.

Lone Wolf Terrorism: Terrorist acts carried out by individuals acting independently without direct affiliation with terrorist groups.

State-Sponsored Terrorism: State-sponsored terrorism is terrorist violence carried out with the active support of national governments provided to violent non-state actors. It contrasts with state terrorism, which is carried out directly by state actors. To designate a country as a State Sponsor of Terrorism, the Secretary of State must determine that the government of such a country has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

Cyberterrorism: The use of technology and digital attacks to intimidate, disrupt, or cause harm for ideological purposes.

Border Security Challenges: Issues related to porous borders enabling smuggling, arms trafficking, and the movement of terrorist organizations.

Jihadist Movements: Islamist extremist groups operating in the MENA region, often with transnational networks.

Sectarian Violence: Conflicts between religious sects, particularly Sunni-Shia tensions, which sometimes fuel terrorism.

Extremist Ideologies: Beliefs advocating radical political or religious changes, often linked to terrorist organizations.

Counterterrorism: Measures taken by governments, international organizations, and security agencies to prevent and combat terrorism.

MENA: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Section covers 19 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

b. Current Situation of MENA Region

Today, the Middle East is a region with many points of instability and a growing degree of complexity in the crises and conflicts that affect its countries as a whole. The destruction of Syria, the decomposition of Iraq, the upheavals in Egypt and Libya, the rivalries between the Gulf oil monarchies, the complicated relations with Iran, the widespread social discontent, the exploitation of ethno-sectarian divisions, the expansion of Jihadism, the confusion of US policy in the area and the perpetuation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are some symptoms – and also results – of the growing complexity experienced by the Middle East.

As a whole, the Middle East and Maghreb region today is messy and in rapid flux. In this part of the world, as in others, insecurities create power struggles. Both the foreign and domestic policies of its countries aim to eliminate or contain the threats, perceived or real, to "security" understood in different ways. National security is frequently confused with the security of the regime and its options to continue in power. It also involves state interests such as sovereignty, territorial integrity and the capacity to influence. The desire for influence can have the objective of achieving regional leadership, advancing economic interests or attaining the recognition of the great powers.

The realistic theory of international relations establishes that when the states are confronted by a serious threat, they usually either seek balance through the formation of alliances or

bandwagoning. The choice is between forming alliances against common threats or aligning with the source of the threat to avoid damage. This in its turn also involves security dilemmas about how to defend oneself without rivals feeling threatened and causing the start of an arms race. Another security dilemma in several Middle East countries is the choice between developing their own defence capacities or "contracting" their defence with the major international powers. It is common for these dilemmas to generate paradoxes and contradictions.

For decades, the Middle East countries have formed different alliances, have been the object of many threats and have suffered numerous superimposed conflicts. These processes seem to have become far more complex in the last few years. Three factors – which will be detailed later – contribute to this growing complexity: 1) the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the consequences of having broken internal and regional balances, 2) the "Arab awakening" and the socio-political transformations experienced in the region since 2011, and 3) the Obama Administration's foreign policy on the area, partly conditioned by the two previous factors.

In the current Middle East there are rivals with common enemies, allies that support each of the opposed sides in the same conflict, contradictory interests between "friendly" countries, shared interests between "enemies", partners unimaginable until recently and pacts against nature. Some old friendships and enmities are being replaced by new alliances in a highly volatile environment.

Today, three regional blocs can be identified: the bloc under Iranian-Shiite leadership (including Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime, the government of Baghdad and several Iraqi militias, Hezbollah and, intermittently, Palestinian militias such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad); the Saudi-Sunni bloc (on which the Egyptian regime headed by Abdul Fattah al-Sisi depends, with countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan and, to some extent, the Palestinian National Authority); and lastly a much weakened bloc mainly formed by Qatar and the different organisations linked to the Muslim Brotherhood. The military/civil coup against the Egyptian government of Mohamed Morsi in July 2013 appreciably changed the composition of these alliances, as his Islamist government was close to Qatar and also to Turkey. For its part, although Israel is not a declared member of any of these blocs, it is de facto an ally of the Riyadh-Cairo axis.

Despite the apparent clarity of the aforementioned blocs, the degree of complexity of their alliances and interactions is very high. While Saudi Arabia and Qatar compete and strongly conflict on the destiny of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, these two countries are allied against Iran and its protected al-Assad supporting rebel Syrian groups composed, among others, by the Muslim Brotherhood. Meanwhile, Iran massively supports the al-Assad regime against the Syrian Islamist rebels supported by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Palestinian movement Hamas, which strikingly have also received support from Teheran. Turkey maintains good relations with the Arab Gulf states and positions itself with them against al-Assad, although they seriously differ in terms of the support that should be received by the Egyptian regime sustained by the military. This is without mentioning the origins of the so-called Islamic State that has taken possession of territories on both sides of the border between Syria and Iraq and is now threatening countries that supported it.

c. Active Terrorist Organizations in MENA

Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS/ISIL): also known as Daesh, ISIS is a Salafi-jihadist group that has conducted and inspired terrorist attacks worldwide, resulting in thousands killed or injured. In 2004, an Iraqi extremist network led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi merged with al-Qa'ida to form ISIS's predecessor group, al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), which Zarqawi led until his death in 2006. Now-deceased Amir Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi took over the group in 2010 and began to expand its operations into eastern Syria in 2011. In 2013, AQI changed its name to ISIS; and in 2014, the group separated from al-Qaeda, declared itself a caliphate, and took over vast swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria.

ISIS uses targeted killings, IED attacks, ambushes, military-style assaults, kidnappings, and suicide attacks in Iraq and Syria. The group also encourages adherents worldwide to conduct operations in their own countries using readily available weapons, and it has previously deployed operatives abroad to execute attacks. ISIS mostly attacks military targets and civilian defense forces in Iraq and Syria. The group also frequently targets government personnel and infrastructure, in addition to foreign aid workers and civilians who ISIS perceives are working against it or are opposed to its interpretation of Islamic law.

In 2019, an international coalition ejected ISIS from its last stronghold in Syria, although the group continues to operate clandestinely there and in Iraq. Despite losing many of its leaders and its territory, ISIS remains capable of conducting insurgent operations in Iraq and Syria while overseeing at least 19 branches and networks in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Al-Qaeda: Al-Qaeda is a Salafi-jihadist group that has evolved from its 9/11 base in Afghanistan and Pakistan into a dispersed network of global affiliates and supporters. Although al-Qa'ida's central leadership cadre has been weakened and most of its original leaders removed, the group still probably seeks to attack the United States and US interests abroad, even as counterterrorism pressure, international cooperation, and enhanced security measures have decreased its ability to do so.

Al-Qa'ida's five affiliates—al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP); al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its Sahel branch, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM); al-Shabaab; al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS); and Hurras al-Din (HaD)—operate across the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. Al-Qaeda in Iraq changed its name to **ISIS** in 2013 and al-Qaeda severed ties with the affiliate in 2014. The Syria-based Nusrah Front broke from al-Qa'ida and merged with other opposition groups to form **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham** in 2017.

Al-Qa'ida's operational activity is generated primarily by the group's affiliates. AQAP is based in Yemen; AQIM is based in Algeria, Libya and Mali; JNIM is based in Mali; al-Shabaab is based in Somalia; AQIS is based in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region; and HaD is based in Syria. Some senior leaders and lower-level members reside in Iran, and the group has a residual presence in Afghanistan.

Al-Qaida has claimed responsibility for a number of large-scale terrorist attacks, including those on the United States Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1998; the attack on the U.S.S. Cole at the port of Aden and other attacks in Saudi Arabia and Yemen in 2000; the attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001, attacks in Turkey in 2003; in Saudi Arabia in 2004; in the United Kingdom in 2005, and others in Pakistan and Afghanistan since then. It has also inspired many other attacks, including in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and SouthEast Asia.

Hezbollah: Hezbollah, a Shia Muslim political and military organization based in Lebanon, emerged during the country's civil war in the 1980s as a resistance group against Israel's invasion. With strong backing from Iran, Hezbollah has grown into one of the most powerful non-state militias globally, playing a significant role in Lebanon's political landscape. Initially advocating for an Islamic government, the group later shifted its rhetoric to support a unified Lebanese democracy while maintaining its opposition to Israel's existence.

The group has been involved in numerous conflicts with Israel, including the 2006 Lebanon War, where it gained regional acclaim for resisting Israeli forces. Despite UN resolutions calling for disarmament, Hezbollah has continued to expand its military capabilities, often clashing with Israel over disputed territories. Its involvement in Syria's civil war further strengthened its military expertise and regional influence.

From October 2023 to November 2024, Hizballah conducted near-daily attacks on Israel in support of HAMAS. Israeli airstrikes in September and October 2024 killed several Hezbollah leaders, including Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, who had led the group since 1992, and his designated successor, Hashim Safi al-Din. In October 2024, Israel initiated ground operations against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. In November 2024, Hezbollah and Israel agreed to a ceasefire that has largely resulted in a cessation of hostilities.

Hezbollah has stateline military capabilities, including air defense systems; antiship, antitank, and precision-guided missiles; rockets; and unmanned aircraft systems. However, these capabilities were degraded during the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict from 2023 to 2024. The fall of the Asad regime in 2024 probably diminished Iran's ability to resupply the group through Syria. Hizballah remains skilled at asymmetric and conventional warfare tactics, including ambushes, assassinations, bombings, indirect-fire attacks, and kidnappings. Hizballah's IJO has a history of caching explosives precursors and maintains clandestine infrastructure in various countries to support operations.

The United Nations does not officially designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. While many countries, including the United States, Israel, and the United Kingdom, classify Hezbollah as such, the UN has historically referred to Hezbollah as a "militia" or "resistance movement" in its resolutions. This distinction reflects the complex political and military role Hezbollah plays in Lebanon and the broader Middle East

HAMAS: HAMAS is the largest and most capable militant group and largest political party in the Palestinian territories. HAMAS is committed to the armed resistance against Israel and to the creation of a Palestinian state. The most recent armed engagement between HAMAS and Israel began on 7 October 2023, when HAMAS launched a surprise attack in Israel, killing nearly 1,200 people. Since the attack, Israeli operations have partially degraded HAMAS's military capabilities in Gaza.

HAMAS emerged in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising, or intifada, as an outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood. HAMAS has been the de facto governing body in the Gaza Strip since 2007, when it ousted the Palestinian Authority. Although HAMAS amended its charter in 2017 to remove a call for Israel's destruction, it does not recognize Israel as a state and continues to advocate all forms of resistance against the country. The group benefits from Iranian support, such as monetary donations.

While many countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Israel, classify Hamas as a terrorist group, the UN views it as a political movement and does not include it on its list of designated terrorist organizations. This distinction has sparked debates and criticism, particularly from nations affected by Hamas's actions.

Houthis (Ansar Allah): The Houthi Movement, a.k.a. Ansarullah (Helpers of God), is a Yemen-based, Zaydi Shia Islamist political and military organization backed by Iran. The group controls much of northern Yemen and has attacked US, Israeli, Gulf Arab, and Western interests in the region. Since the start of the Israel-HAMAS conflict in 2023, the Huthis have attacked commercial and military ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and have conducted UAS and missile strikes against Israel.

The Houthi Movement emerged in the 1990s and espoused religious revivalism, increased autonomy for northern Yemen, and decreased Western influence in the region. The Huthis opposed Yemen's support for the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. Starting in 2004, the Huthis led an insurgency against the Yemeni Government, and in 2014, the Huthis took control of the capital, Sanaa. During the 2014-2022 civil war, the group fought the Yemeni Government, which was backed by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen and other tribal elements. The Huthis also conducted strikes on Saudi Arabia and the UAE. As of January 2025, the group remains in conflict with the Yemeni Government and other Yemeni political factions.

Boko Haram: Boko Haram, which aims to expel Western influence and create a Salafi-Islamist state in its area of operations, has killed an estimated 50,000 people and displaced more than 2.5 million people since it was established in 2002. The group was at various times affiliated with al-Qa'ida or ISIS but is not currently aligned with either group. In mid-2021, longtime Boko Haram amir Abubakar Shekau killed himself to avoid capture during an offensive by rival group ISIS–West Africa. Since then, Boko Haram has lost most of its fighters and territory in Nigeria as former members have defected to ISIS–West Africa or turned themselves in to local governments.

d. Security Organizations and Effective UN Bodies in Region

Arab League: The Arab League actively combats terrorism through regional cooperation and legal frameworks. In 1997, it adopted the Arab Strategy to Combat Terrorism, addressing terrorism's security, economic, ideological, and social dimensions. The Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, established in 1998, criminalizes terrorism and enhances intelligence sharing, extradition, and legal assistance among member states. The League's Counterterrorism Committee works on generating reports, enacting legislation, and promoting dialogue to tackle the root causes of terrorism. Additionally, the Arab League aligns its efforts with UN counterterrorism strategies and resolutions to strengthen international cooperation, creating a unified approach to addressing terrorism in the region.

The Arab League consists of 22 member states that work collaboratively on regional issues and challenges. These countries are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) actively combats terrorism in the MENA region through coordinated efforts among its member states. It has established frameworks like the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center (TFTC), in partnership with the United States, to disrupt financial networks supporting terrorism. The GCC also focuses on enhancing regional security through intelligence sharing, capacity building, and legal measures to counter radicalization and terrorist activities2. Additionally, the GCC collaborates with international organizations, including the United Nations, to align its counterterrorism strategies with global efforts. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) comprises six member states: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

INTERPOL MENA: INTERPOL-MENA plays a crucial role in combating terrorism in the region by enhancing law enforcement capabilities and fostering international cooperation. Through initiatives like Project Momentum-MENA, INTERPOL focuses on building capacity to address transnational organized crime, including terrorism. It provides specialized training, tools, and databases to law enforcement agencies in MENA countries, enabling them to investigate and prevent terrorist activities effectively1. Additionally, INTERPOL facilitates intelligence sharing among member states, helping to disrupt terrorist networks and financing.

African Union (AU): The African Union (AU) combats terrorism in the MENA region through its 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 Protocol, which provide a legal framework for member states to criminalize terrorist acts and enhance cooperation. The AU established the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in 2004 to centralize information, conduct research, and develop counter-terrorism capacity-building programs. Additionally, the AU promotes intelligence sharing, harmonization of legislation, and coordination among member states through initiatives like the African Model Law on Counter-Terrorism and specialized joint counter-terrorism units within the African Standby Force (ASF).

Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF): The Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) combats terrorism in the region by addressing the financing of terrorist activities. It adopts and implements the FATF 40 Recommendations, which focus on combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation. MENAFATF works to enhance compliance with international standards among member states and collaborates with organizations like the United Nations to strengthen global efforts1. Additionally, it conducts mutual evaluations, provides technical assistance, and raises awareness about methods and trends in terrorist financing. These initiatives aim to disrupt financial networks that support terrorism while respecting cultural and legal frameworks in the region.

Coalition Against ISIS: The Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, established in 2014, is an international alliance of over 80 countries and organizations committed to eradicating ISIS. Its efforts in the MENA region include military operations to liberate territories controlled by ISIS, disrupting the group's financial networks, and countering its propaganda. The coalition also works to prevent the flow of foreign fighters and supports stabilization efforts in liberated areas by restoring essential services and governance.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT): The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) plays a pivotal role in combating terrorism in the MENA region through various initiatives. It implements the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which focuses on addressing conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing terrorist acts, building state capacities, and ensuring respect for human rights. UNOCT also conducts capacity-building programs, such as workshops on countering terrorist financing, to enhance technical capabilities in financial investigations. Additionally, it collaborates with regional organizations like MENAFATF to strengthen partnerships and improve information sharing. These efforts aim to create a comprehensive and coordinated approach to counter-terrorism in the region.

United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC): The United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) combats terrorism in the MENA region by ensuring member states comply with international counter-terrorism obligations. It promotes the implementation of Security Council resolutions, such as those addressing the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and the financing of terrorism. The CTC also collaborates with regional organizations and governments to provide technical assistance, share best practices, and strengthen legal frameworks.

Institute for Security Studies (ISS): The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) is an NGO dedicated to promoting peace and security across Africa, including the MENA region. It focuses on research, policy advice, and capacity-building to address challenges such as terrorism. ISS collaborates with governments and regional organizations to develop effective counter-terrorism strategies, improve criminal justice systems, and enhance cooperation. By addressing the root causes of terrorism through advocacy and training, ISS plays a significant role in fostering sustainable peace and security in the region.

4. Case Studies in International Law

1.UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. The General Assembly reviews the Strategy every two years, making it a living document attuned to Member States' counter-terrorism priorities.

Priority 1: Advancing the Meaningful Participation of Civil Society in Counter-terrorism and an Enabling Rights Environment Since the mandate's inception in 2005, "66 per cent of all relevant communications sent by the mandate holders have related to the use on civil society of counter-terrorism laws and policies and prevention and countering of violent extremism or broadly defined security-related measures." Ensuring the meaningful participation of independent civil society can only succeed through regular engagement and adoption of measures that protect the work and rights of civil society at all levels. The mandate emphasizes that concrete pathways for engagement should be integrated within the Global Compact to enable regular and meaningful participation of civil society within the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture.

Priority 2: Mainstreaming Human Rights through Tailored Tools for Measurement and Investment & Increased Implementation of Pillar IV The realization of human rights mainstreaming goals across the GCTS requires a careful analysis of the existing resource constraints and inequalities for human rights within the existing U.N. counter-terrorism architecture. The realization of a stronger and balanced Pillar IV, along with mainstreaming throughout Pillars, will require assigning requisite resources. The Mandate emphasizes that this remains one of many steps towards improving the possibility for independent human rights impact assessments, adherence to the U.N. Due Diligence Policy and greater independent human rights oversight.

Priority 3: Preventing the Misuse and Abuse of Counter-Terrorism Measures and Exceptional Powers The Mandate has continued to emphasize that values-based approaches to counter-terrorism, rooted in the respect for human rights and international law, are the approaches that yield long-term results for peaceful, secure and equal societies. The General Assembly has continued to acknowledge that it is not through security solutions that the challenge of terrorism will be addressed, but through long-term investments in development and building peaceful, resilient, and equal communities. The Mandate emphasizes the importance of reaffirming these commitments to human rights for all Member States.

Priority 4: Ensuring Full Protection for the Rights of Victims of Terrorism Recognizing the significant steps that have been taken to bring greater attention to the experiences and needs of victims of terrorism, including the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism and the establishment of a Group of Friends for Victims of Terrorism, the mandate encourages Member States to consolidate these efforts to advance meaningful legal protections for victims of terrorism at the country level. The mandate supports strengthening the rights of victims in line with the commitments of States articulated in General Assembly resolution 73/305 (A/RES/73/305). Among the most important priorities included finding practical ways to support States particularly adversely affected by terrorism to provide medical, legal and

psycho-social support to victims and emphasizing the required gender specific approaches to address the needs of women and girls who are victims.

Priority 5: Gender and Women's Rights in the Context of Countering Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Entrenched inequality and structural discrimination in many societies continue to affect the realization of the rights of women and girls impacted by terrorism and counter-terrorism or P/CVE measures. This extends across issues such as sanctions, detention, citizenship deprivation, return and repatriation, the role of family law and family courts, and challenges faced by women human rights defenders from P/CVE policies and practices. Gender mainstreaming must therefore be rooted in human rights and gender equality elevating the rights of, and remedies due to, women and girls, without discrimination. The mandate emphasizes the need to engage UN Women on the institutional and programmatic necessities for ensuring long-term, meaningful gender mainstreaming, for which their mandate and expertise has supported throughout the United Nations infrastructure.

Priority 6: Emerging Technologies and Counter-Terrorism The mandate has articulated the impact of emerging and new technologies on human rights, including detailed reporting on biometrics. As the use of new, emerging, and even well established technologies continues, it is imperative to ensure the protection and promotion of the right to privacy and data protection. It is also critical to address the ramifications for a broad range of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, noting the "indivisible and interdependent character of all human rights." The mandate encourages Member States to recall the international human rights framework governing obligations on collection, retention, processing and sharing of biometric and other data and to enhance implementation, such as human rights impact assessments, meaningful monitoring and evaluation of ways in which human rights are affected by relevant laws, policies, and practices, and increasing effective independent oversight.

2.International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism:

Designed to criminalize acts of nuclear terrorism and to promote police and judicial cooperation to prevent, investigate and punish those acts. As of January 2024, the convention has 115 signatories and 124 state parties, including the nuclear powers China, France, India, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Convention covers a broad range of acts and possible targets, including nuclear power plants and nuclear reactors; covers threats and attempts to commit such crimes or to participate in them, as an accomplice; stipulates that offenders shall be either extradited or prosecuted; encourages States to cooperate in preventing terrorist attacks by sharing information and assisting each other in connection with criminal investigations and extradition proceedings; and, deals with both crisis situations, assisting States to solve the situations and post-crisis situations by rendering nuclear material safe through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Definition of the crime of nuclear terrorism:

A person is considered to have committed an offence under this Convention if they unlawfully and deliberately possess radioactive material or create or hold a device with the intention of causing death, serious injury, or significant damage to property or the environment. It is also an offence to use such material or a device—or to damage or interfere

with a nuclear facility in a way that causes or threatens to cause the release of radioactive material—if the intention behind the act is to harm people, damage property or the environment, or to pressure a person, organization, or country into taking or avoiding a specific action.

Application of the convention to the use of nuclear devices:

1)Nothing in this Convention shall affect other rights, obligations and responsibilities of States and individuals under international law, in particular the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law.

2)The activities of armed forces during an armed conflict, as those terms are understood under international humanitarian law, which are governed by that law are not governed by this Convention, and the activities undertaken by military forces of a State in the exercise of their official duties, inasmuch as they are governed by other rules of international law, are not governed by this Convention.

3)The provisions of paragraph 2 of the present article shall not be interpreted as condoning or making lawful otherwise unlawful acts, or precluding prosecution under other laws.

4) This Convention does not address, nor can it be interpreted as addressing, in any way, the issue of the legality of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by States.

3.International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings:

The Terrorist Bombings Convention is a 1997 United Nations treaty designed to criminalize terrorist bombings.The convention describes terrorist bombings as the unlawful and intentional use of explosives in public places with intention to kill, to injure, or to cause extensive destruction to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing such acts.The convention also seeks to promote police and judicial co-operation to prevent, investigate and punish those acts.

4.International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism:

The Terrorist Financing Convention is a 1999 United Nations treaty designed to criminalize acts of financing acts of terrorism. The convention also seeks to promote police and judicial co-operation to prevent, investigate and punish the financing of such acts.

Defines the crime of terrorist financing as the offense committed by "any person" who "by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and willfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, in order to carry out" an act "intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act."

State parties to this treaty also commit themselves to the freezing and seizure of funds intended to be used for terrorist activities and to share the forfeited funds with all state parties. Moreover, state parties commit themselves not to use bank secrecy as a justification for refusing to cooperate in the suppression of terrorist financing.

5.Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism

Adopted by the League of Arab States in 1998, the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism aims to strengthen cooperation among Arab countries in fighting terrorism. It provides a regional legal framework for the extradition of suspects, judicial cooperation, and the exchange of information among member states. One of the most debated aspects of this convention is its broad and ambiguous definition of terrorism, which some critics argue can be used to suppress political opposition and dissent. While the treaty emphasizes state cooperation and the protection of people involved in investigations and trials, it lacks explicit commitments to upholding human rights or democratic freedoms. Despite this, it remains a foundational document for joint counter-terrorism efforts in the Arab world.

6.OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) adopted this convention in 1999 with the goal of establishing a unified Islamic approach to combating terrorism. It unequivocally condemns terrorism in all forms and asserts that terrorism is incompatible with the values of Islam. A key feature of the convention is its distinction between terrorism and legitimate struggles for self-determination, such as resistance against foreign occupation, which it does not classify as terrorism. It promotes legal cooperation, extradition procedures, intelligence sharing, and joint training programs among member states. The convention also emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of terrorism and the role of education and media in prevention. While the document reflects solidarity among Islamic countries, its effectiveness depends largely on the political will and implementation by individual member states.

7.AU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism

Signed in Algiers in 1999 by the Organisation of African Unity (now the African Union), this convention was created to address the growing threat of terrorism across the African continent. It defines terrorist acts broadly, including actions intended to intimidate or destabilize governments, spread fear among the population, or disrupt public services. Like the OIC convention, it excludes liberation movements fighting colonialism or foreign occupation from its definition of terrorism. The treaty obliges member states to criminalize terrorism in their domestic laws, share intelligence, and assist each other in investigations, arrests, and prosecutions. It entered into force in 2002, and a 2004 Protocol further enhanced the treaty's provisions, particularly in areas like terrorist financing. The convention represents Africa's most comprehensive regional legal instrument against terrorism and has laid the groundwork for AU-led counter-terrorism programs and institutions.

8.AFRIPOL

Mandate and Objectives:

AFRIPOL's mandate centers on fostering cooperation among African law enforcement agencies to combat transnational organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, cybercrime, and other security challenges. Its objectives include:

1. **Enhancing Police Collaboration**: Strengthening communication and operational ties among police forces across AU member states.
2. **Capacity Building**: Offering training and technical support to improve the capabilities of national police forces.
3. **Data Sharing**: Facilitating the exchange of criminal intelligence and information across borders.
4. **Strategic Partnerships**: Collaborating with regional and international organizations, including Interpol, Europol, and the United Nations.
5. **Policy Development**: Advising AU member states on policies and strategies to enhance law enforcement effectiveness.

5. Humanitarian Effects of Terrorism

Terrorism has a direct impact on human rights, affecting the enjoyment of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity of individuals, particularly victims of terrorism. It can destabilise and undermine entire societies, threaten peace and security, and undermine social and economic development. It seeks to impose the views of a minority on the majority and will stop at nothing to achieve its objectives. Terrorism attacks the pillars of democracy and the rule of law on which respect for human rights is based. States have a duty to protect the lives of their citizens and the integrity of the State, and must be able to take appropriate measures to combat terrorism.

a. Psychological Effects

Terrorism is usually defined as a form of action taken to impose one's demands on the government by creating fear through violence in an organised way. The aim of terrorism is to undermine the very fabric of society. Although its forms, objectives, methods and effects change according to physical, social and political conditions, the impact of terrorism on human life has always been traumatic: permanent damage can be done to the daily lives, thought systems, expectations and hopes for the future of individuals who are directly or indirectly exposed to terrorism. Both individuals and society are exposed to terrorism, sometimes directly, but usually indirectly through the mass media.

Exposure to a traumatic event such as terrorism psychological effects of terrorism are varied and their reactions to the situation depends on a variety of factors. People directly or indirectly exposed to terrorism, their reactions can be expressed in terms of disinterest, empathy / sympathy or trauma can be divided into three main groups. On the one hand, people who are physically distant from the event and who are not culturally associated with it may adopt an attitude of disinterest in what is happening between them. On the other hand, the event is physically close, even if it takes place in a distant place. symbolic or cultural identification with someone empathy/sympathy with the party in such cases to the event. Both cultural and physical proximity to the event, when the terrorist act is exposed directly or through the mass media, can traumatise people to varying degrees.

b. Physical Effects

Terrorism can have severe physical effects on individuals and communities, often resulting in loss of life, serious injuries, and long-term health complications. Explosions, shootings, and other violent acts commonly associated with terrorist attacks can cause burns, fractures, amputations, and internal injuries. Survivors may suffer permanent disabilities that significantly impact their quality of life. Beyond immediate harm, the destruction of infrastructure—such as hospitals, transportation systems, and power supplies—can delay emergency response and medical treatment, further worsening the physical toll on affected populations. The fear of future attacks may also lead to chronic stress, which can manifest in physical health issues over time.

The potential impact on victims of terrorism can be devastating and multiple, experienced on many interrelated levels - individual, collective and societal. From a victimological perspective, there are three circles of 'personal victimisation' determined by their proximity to the direct victim: "Primary or first-degree victimisation is experienced by those who are directly harmed, whether by injury, loss or death; secondary or second-degree victimisation is experienced by family members, relatives or friends of the primary victims; and tertiary or third-degree victimisation is experienced by those who observe the victimisation, are exposed to it through coverage of the victimisation on television or radio, or who assist and care for the victims.

In contrast to the effects of accidental injury or illness, research on the effects of crime has emphasised mental, psychological and social effects, as opposed to physical or financial effects. This can be attributed to the fact that crime is "qualitatively different from being the victim of an accident or illness because it involves someone intentionally or recklessly harming you".

6. Critical Countries Views

Türkiye: Türkiye identifies terrorism as a principal threat to international peace and security, particularly within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Given its geographic proximity to several active conflict zones, Turkey has adopted a comprehensive counterterrorism strategy that combines military, legislative, and diplomatic measures. Through cross-border operations such as Euphrates Shield (2016), Olive Branch (2018), and Peace Spring (2019), Turkey has sought to eliminate terrorist threats posed by groups such as Daesh and the PKK/YPG, while simultaneously establishing safe zones to protect civilian populations and mitigate refugee flows. Domestically, Turkey implements a robust legal framework to prevent terrorist activities, including enhanced intelligence coordination and financial surveillance. Internationally, Turkey collaborates with regional actors and multilateral platforms such as the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS to support stabilization efforts and share intelligence. As the world's largest host of refugees, Turkey also plays a significant humanitarian role in responding to the aftermath of terrorism and armed conflict. In DISEC and other international fora, Turkey consistently advocates for a universally accepted definition of terrorism, increased multilateral cooperation, and stronger measures against states that provide support to terrorist organizations.

United States of America: The United States regards the fight against terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) as a top national security priority. Through a combination of military intervention, strategic partnerships, and intelligence sharing, the U.S. has led efforts to dismantle terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda, Daesh, and their affiliates. As a founding member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, the United States has conducted targeted operations and provided support to local forces, while also investing in stabilization programs in Iraq and Syria. The U.S. emphasizes the importance of addressing both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism, including governance failures, poverty, and ideological radicalization. In forums such as DISEC, the United States advocates for the strengthening of multilateral frameworks, capacity-building for counterterrorism forces in MENA states, and the disruption of financial and logistical networks that enable terrorist activities. Furthermore, it supports international initiatives aimed at border security, cyber defense, and countering violent extremism online.

Russian Federation:The Russian Federation considers terrorism in the MENA region a critical threat to global stability and its own national interests. Russia has played an active role in counterterrorism operations, most notably in Syria, where it supports the Syrian government in its efforts to reclaim territory from terrorist groups such as Daesh and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham. Russia emphasizes the sovereignty of states in combating terrorism and is strongly opposed to any interventions that bypass the authority of national governments. It also advocates for enhanced coordination between state actors and the avoidance of double standards in designating terrorist groups. In DISEC, Russia calls for greater intelligence sharing, joint military initiatives, and the implementation of internationally binding legal frameworks to curb the spread of terrorism. Additionally, it supports measures aimed at preventing the use of new technologies, such as drones and encrypted communication platforms, by terrorist networks operating in the MENA region.

France:France views terrorism in the MENA region as a direct threat to European and international security. France has been actively involved in counterterrorism missions across the region, particularly in the Sahel through Operation Barkhane and in Syria and Iraq as part of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. France places strong emphasis on international cooperation, rule of law, and human rights in all counterterrorism efforts. It supports the strengthening of regional capabilities through military assistance, institutional reform, and education aimed at countering radicalization. In DISEC, France advocates for a balanced approach that combines hard security measures with soft power tools, including diplomacy, development aid, and dialogue with civil society. France is also vocal in supporting United Nations-led efforts to standardize counterterrorism definitions and procedures, while urging respect for international humanitarian law in all counterterrorism operations.

United Kingdom:The United Kingdom regards the threat of terrorism in the MENA region as a global challenge requiring coordinated international action. The UK has actively contributed to counterterrorism efforts in the region through military engagement, capacity-building, and intelligence cooperation with key partners. As a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, the UK has supported local forces in Iraq and Syria, while also focusing on counter-radicalization programs and humanitarian assistance. The UK places a strong emphasis on upholding human rights and the rule of law in all aspects of counterterrorism policy. Within DISEC, the United Kingdom calls for enhanced multilateral engagement, the development of common legal definitions of terrorism, and greater action to disrupt terrorist financing and online radicalization. It also promotes initiatives to strengthen border management and civil-military cooperation in fragile MENA states to prevent the

resurgence of terrorist threats.

7. History of Terrorism in Selected MENA Countries

Iraq : Iraq's primary terrorist threats included ISIS remnants and various Iran-aligned militia groups, including U.S.-designated Kata'ib Hizballah, Harakat al-Nujaba, and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, as well as smaller militias claiming to be a part of Iraq's "Islamic Resistance." PKK, a designated terrorist group primarily located in the mountains of northern Iraq and in southeastern Türkiye, conducted multiple attacks in the Iraqi Region resulting in the deaths of several Peshmerga personnel.

ISIS, though severely diminished in capacity, continued to conduct operations, particularly in northern and western rural areas with limited Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) presence. ISIS sought to reestablish footholds in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din provinces, especially in the gaps between those areas frequently patrolled by the Peshmerga and ISF. Although ISIS conducted deadly terrorist attacks in Iraq, those attacks resulted in fewer casualties nationwide in 2021 than in previous years. Methods included bombings, indirect fire, IEDs, sniper fire, and ambushes. Iraq remained a pivotal member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and a participant in all Coalition Working Groups. Iraq's Counter Terrorism Service conducted about 170 counter terrorist operations against ISIS during 2021, often with Defeat-ISIS Coalition support.

Iraqi counterterrorism functions were principally executed by the CTS, a cabinet-level entity reporting directly to the prime minister, as well as by various security forces under the Ministries of Defense and Interior, and the Peshmerga. In limited instances, Popular Mobilization Forces augmented Iraqi Army and CTS-led operations. All PMF were required by law to operate under the command and control of the prime minister. However, Iran-aligned militia groups, including many within the PMF, defied central government command and control and engaged in violent and destabilizing activities in Iraq and in neighboring Syria, including killing and abducting people protesting militia corruption. The number of attacks by IAMGs against U.S. interests resulting in the killing and wounding of Iraqi service members and locals remained about the same in 2021 as in 2020. Media reported Turkish airstrikes against the PKK in northern Iraq resulted in civilian casualties, including children.

Israel: Israel remained a committed counterterrorism partner, closely coordinating with the United States on a range of counterterrorism initiatives. Owing to COVID-19, Israel and the United States held numerous interagency counterterrorism dialogues virtually to discuss and collaborate on regional threats. Counterterrorism issues were also at the center of the agenda during numerous high-level U.S. visits to Israel.

Israel faced threats from the North from Hizballah and along the northeastern frontier from Hizballah and other Iran-backed groups, including as many as 150,000 rockets and missiles aimed at Israel, according to some Israeli estimates. Israeli officials expressed concern that Iran was supplying Hizballah with advanced weapons systems and technologies, including precision-guided missiles. This concern included Iran's work to assist Hizballah and other proxies in indigenously producing rockets, missiles, and drones.

To the South, Israel faced threats from terrorist organizations including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and ISIS-Sinai Province. Rocket attacks originating from Gaza resulted in several injuries and property damage. There were sporadic attempts to infiltrate Israel from Gaza by armed militants, none of which resulted in Israeli casualties. Other sources of terrorist threats included the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and lone-actor attacks.

Iran: The history of terrorism in the Islamic Republic of Iran is deeply intertwined with both domestic political developments and broader regional dynamics. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has been the target of various terrorist activities, ranging from politically motivated assassinations and sectarian attacks to violence carried out by separatist and extremist groups. In the early years of the Islamic Republic, the country faced significant internal unrest, particularly from the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), an armed opposition group responsible for a series of bombings and high-profile assassinations of government officials. While Iran has consistently classified MEK as a terrorist organization, its designation has been lifted in some Western countries in recent years.In addition to domestic threats, Iran has also endured attacks by Sunni extremist groups such as Jundallah, which have operated primarily in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan. These groups often claim to represent the grievances of ethnic and religious minorities and have targeted both civilian and military institutions. More recently, the so-called Islamic State (ISIS/Daesh) carried out a major attack in 2017, targeting the Iranian Parliament and the Mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran.Although Iran positions itself as a victim of terrorism, it has also faced widespread allegations of supporting terrorist activities beyond its borders. Several countries, including the United States and members of the European Union, have accused Iran of financing and arming non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Palestine, and various armed groups in Iraq and Yemen. These groups are considered terrorist organizations by many governments; however, Iran defends its support for them as part of a broader "Axis of Resistance" against foreign occupation and regional instability.On the international stage, Iran actively participates in counterterrorism dialogues but often challenges prevailing narratives. Iranian officials frequently stress the need for a universally accepted definition of terrorism, arguing that current frameworks are subject to political bias and double standards. Iran has called for a more balanced and inclusive global approach, one that distinguishes between terrorism and what it sees as legitimate resistance against oppression and occupation.

Palestine: The issue of terrorism in the context of Palestine is deeply entangled with the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Various Palestinian factions, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have been labeled as terrorist organizations by several countries, while others view them as resistance movements operating under occupation. Acts of violence against civilians—particularly rocket attacks and suicide bombings—have been widely condemned by the international community. At the same time, many Palestinians have expressed concerns about the labeling of legitimate political struggle as terrorism. The Palestinian Authority has, in recent years, worked with international partners to improve security coordination and curb extremist violence in the West Bank. Palestine continues to advocate for a comprehensive political solution to the conflict, arguing that lasting peace and the reduction of terrorism can only be achieved through the end of occupation, recognition of Palestinian statehood, and the addressing of underlying grievances.

Egypt: Egypt has faced persistent terrorist threats, particularly since the 2011 revolution. The Sinai Peninsula has become a hotspot for militant activity, most notably from groups affiliated with ISIS, such as Wilayat Sinai. These groups have targeted Egyptian security forces, infrastructure, and religious minorities, including Coptic Christians. In response, the Egyptian government has launched extensive military operations and implemented a nationwide counterterrorism strategy focusing on surveillance, intelligence gathering, and legal measures. While these efforts have led to the dismantling of several terror cells, they have also drawn international concern regarding human rights and civil liberties. Egypt maintains that its actions are in line with its sovereign right to ensure national security and has called for enhanced regional cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat the transnational nature of terrorism in North Africa and the Middle East.

Syria : From 1970 to 2004, Syria's experience with terrorism was shaped by domestic insurgency, authoritarian governance, and controversial regional alliances. Under President Hafez al-Assad, the regime faced a serious internal threat from Sunni Islamist factions, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, which opposed the secular Ba'athist rule and the dominance of the Alawite minority. This culminated in the 1982 Hama massacre, where Syrian forces brutally suppressed an uprising, killing thousands of civilians and insurgents. Throughout the 1980s, Syria continued to witness terrorist incidents, including the 1986 Damascus bombings, believed to have been influenced by foreign actors. Internationally, Syria was designated a state sponsor of terrorism in 1979 due to its support for groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and various Palestinian militant factions, including Hamas and the PFLP-GC. These relationships, framed by Damascus as resistance against occupation, were widely condemned by Western governments and regional rivals. Although Syria participated in peace negotiations in the 1990s and briefly cooperated with the U.S. after the September 11 attacks, tensions resurged due to its opposition to the 2003 Iraq War and continued support for non-state actors. This culminated in the 2004 Syria Accountability Act, which imposed sanctions over Syria's alleged sponsorship of terrorism, destabilizing activity in Iraq and Lebanon, and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction**.**

Libya: The history of terrorism in Libya is deeply rooted in the country's political evolution, particularly under the rule of Muammar Gaddafi and the turmoil that followed his fall in 2011. During his four-decade regime, Gaddafi maintained a tight grip on power through a mix of authoritarian control and suppression of dissent, often portraying opposition movements as terrorist threats. At the same time, Libya was itself accused of sponsoring terrorism abroad, most notably in the 1980s, including its alleged involvement in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and support for insurgent groups across Africa and the Middle East. These actions led to Libya's international isolation and sanctions for much of the late 20th century.

Following the 2011 revolution and Gaddafi's ousting, the collapse of centralized authority created a power vacuum that allowed extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and ISIS to establish a stronghold, particularly in cities like Derna and Sirte. These groups capitalized on tribal divisions, porous borders, and the proliferation of weapons to carry out attacks against civilians, security forces, and diplomatic missions, including the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

The fragmentation of Libya into rival governments and armed militias has severely hindered national and international counterterrorism efforts. While some extremist groups have been pushed out of key territories, Libya continues to face threats related to terrorism, human

trafficking, and arms smuggling. The Libyan authorities, along with international partners, stress the urgent need to rebuild state institutions, improve border control, and promote political reconciliation as essential components of a sustainable counterterrorism strategy.

8. Questions to be Answered

1. What are the primary root causes of terrorism in the MENA region?

    1.1. How can states prevent root causes of terrorism?

    1.2. How can states Prevent radicalization and recruitment especially among youth?

2. How do foreign involvements and historical context contribute to the rise of terrorism?

3. What is the role of DISEC in addressing terrorism, given its focus on disarmament and international security?

4. How can states be held accountable for sponsoring terrorism?

5. How can the United Nations coordinate effectively with regional organizations such as the Arab League, African Union, and OIC?

6. How could international cooperation be effective in intercepting terrorist organizations in MENA?

7. How can international cooperation rule out terrorist financing and arms trafficking networks?

8. What are the physical and psychological impacts of terrorism on civilians?

9. How should the international community support victims of terrorism, particularly women and children?

10. How can states avoid the misuse of counterterrorism laws to suppress dissent or civil society?

11. What is the role of education, civil society, and media in countering extremist ideologies?

12. What measures can the international community take to effectively counter state-sponsored terrorism in MENA?

13. What role does sectarian violence play in the perpetuation of terrorism, and how can it be mitigated?

14. What is the role of education in preventing extremist ideologies from gaining traction among the youth in MENA?

15. What is the impact of cyberterrorism on regional security, and what steps can be taken to combat it effectively?

16. How can regional stability and economic development reduce the appeal of terrorist groups?

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