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MODERN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM – A THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the discussion of the problems of modern international extremism and terrorism - the main threats against the peace and security of all mankind. The article analysed the activities of a number of international mechanisms of struggle, where special attention was directed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as one of the most universal mechanisms. The article also studied the position and measures taken by the Republic of Uzbekistan in the fight against international extremism and terrorism.

KEYWORDS

International terrorism, international extremism, global cooperation, rule of law, preventive protection mechanisms.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the problems of international extremism and terrorism are among the main threats directed against the peace and security of all mankind. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by General Assembly resolution 60/288, states that terrorism "is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security[1]. Strengthening the capacity of States to prevent and combat terrorism is a core element of global counter-terrorism efforts.

It is obvious that international extremism and terrorism undermine state foundations, destabilize the socio-political situation in the state, negatively affect

the attraction of investments, hinder the economic development of both the whole society and its individual, and pose a socio-political danger to the entire state security system in general.

Based on this, each state strives to create mechanisms for preventive protection against these threats, both at the regional and international levels, which include such tasks as creating the necessary structures, an appropriate regulatory framework, establishing contacts with international organizations, etc.

At the beginning of the 21st century, international organizations undoubtedly play an important role in

the modern architectonics of international relations. Moreover, in the range of international relations, the primacy undoubtedly belongs to the United Nations and organizations included in the UN system [2].

K.G. Sokolovsky in his study speaks of the importance of understanding that modern terrorism and terrorism that existed literally half a century ago are two completely different phenomena. This refers, first of all, to the unprecedented progress of mankind in the field of communications, which has made it possible to change the methods of recruiting supporters, to use fundamentally new approaches to working in the media and social networks, to add dynamics to ongoing propaganda, to shift the emphasis to deliberate publicity of actions, to demonstrate to literally every resident planet, regardless of the geography of his residence, even greater cruelty and massive use of means[3].

Scientists S. Grachev and R. Azimov accurately note that “The management of international terrorism began to pay more and more attention to working with the “educated” part of the population, searching and recruiting from among engineers, chemists, economists, programmer specialists, etc., At the same time, the leaders of terrorist groups began to pay special attention to the technical equipment of combat groups”[4].

The relevance and urgency of these threats required states to unanimously approve the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006. It became the first comprehensive, collective and generally accepted legal framework to unite national and international efforts in the fight against terrorism. This document, adopted in the form of a resolution and the attached Action Plan (A/RES/60/288), is a unique document to improve national, regional and international efforts aimed at combating terrorism. Its adoption marked the first

time that Member States of the United Nations had agreed on a common strategic and operational framework for the fight against terrorism. Thus, they make it clear that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is unacceptable, and decided to take both collective and individual measures to prevent and combat it.

When developing national government strategies, it is very important to rely on the four main pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:

Pillar I: measures aimed at eliminating conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism;

Direction II: preventing and combating terrorism;

Track III: Strengthening the capacity of States to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthening the role of the United Nations system in this area; And

Pillar IV: Ensuring universal respect for human rights and the rule of law as a fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

1. Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.
2. Measures to prevent and combat terrorism.
3. Measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard.
4. Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

Through these pillars, the Strategy links the work of the UN to the Organization's broader agenda, which aims to maintain international peace and security, promote sustainable development and protect human rights. In addition, the four-pillar approach has enabled

States to develop a similar integrated approach to counter-terrorism at the national level and has created a common institutional and legal framework for regional and global support to national Member States. The Strategy forms a common platform that brings together the efforts of the 30 international agencies that make up the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). The CTITF was established by the UN Secretary-General to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy and support overall coordination and a common approach to UN counter-terrorism efforts.

The international agencies that make up the CTITF contribute to UN counter-terrorism efforts in accordance with their mandates, while participating in the activities of various CTITF working groups and initiatives[5].

A very important aspect is that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism is consistent with their obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

In this regard, States have an obligation to make every effort to establish and maintain effective national criminal justice systems based on the rule of law that can ensure compliance with our obligations under international law. For example, it is important that any person involved in financing, planning, preparing or committing terrorist acts or in providing support for terrorist acts is brought to justice on the basis of the “extradite or stand trial” principle, with due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and that National laws have qualified such terrorist acts as serious criminal offences.

Given the global nature of the problem, States may require assistance in establishing and maintaining

effective criminal justice systems based on the rule of law and, in such cases, States may be able to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. UNODC operates worldwide through a network of regional offices[6].

It should be noted that Uzbekistan and UNODC have a long history of cooperation. Back in 1993, Uzbekistan supported the creation of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent. Through the Regional Office, UNODC works in five countries of Central Asia and maintains its activities in three countries of the South Caucasus. In recent years, the cooperation between UNODC and Uzbekistan has expanded significantly due to reform processes initiated by the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev. The cooperation in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice helped support prison reforms, the adoption of anti-trafficking regulations and revisions to the Criminal, Criminal Executive and Criminal Procedure Codes, as well as the adoption of the Law on the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence [7].

Along with this, on March 4, 2021, the official opening of the first Situation Centre took place in the central office of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan (SCC), created in partnership with the Regional Office for Central Asia of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [8].

Today, the Central Asian region is one of the most vulnerable territories in terms of the threat of terrorism due to its geographical data and other objective and subjective reasons. Therefore, Uzbekistan has its own clearly defined firm position in the policy of combating international terrorism. Uzbekistan takes an active part in the work of anti-terrorist international organizations. For example, within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization, the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure operates in Tashkent.

The Republic of Uzbekistan also supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy approved by the UN General Assembly, which has become a unique document to intensify and consolidate national, regional and international measures in the fight against various manifestations of terrorism.

The adoption in 2011 of the Joint Action Plan for Central Asia (CA JAP) became another significant event that served to strengthen measures to combat and coordinate the efforts of the states of the region in this direction, and the plan itself today acts as a strategic regional document of neighbouring states to combat terrorism.

By 2021, the acceding countries had already widely celebrated two notable dates - the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the UN GCTS framework and the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Central Asian SAP.

The event on the topic: “Regional cooperation of the countries of Central Asia within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” was organized at a high international level on March 3 and 4, 2022, by the UN and Central Asian states, as well as international and regional partners. It served as an important milestone in the history of the fight against this evil [9].

It should be especially noted that this international conference became the real embodiment of the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in 2020 to hold an international conference in Tashkent dedicated to this significant date, which gave new impetus to multilateral cooperation in the fight against threats extremism and terrorism.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has always consistently and unconditionally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, is committed to international cooperation, and is a party to all major universal international legal documents in the field of combating terrorism.

Counter-terrorism in Uzbekistan is comprehensive in nature, combining both measures to eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and measures to prevent and combat manifestations of terrorism. The work is carried out in close coordination and cooperation with the international community.

Countering extremism and terrorism is one of the priorities in ensuring the country's national security. Uzbekistan strongly condemns any form of extremism and terrorism, and also advocates the adoption of collective efforts by the world community to combat these phenomena.

The counter-terrorism strategy implemented in Uzbekistan fully coincides with UN recommendations in this area, including the priority areas of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Its main tasks are to eradicate the causes of their origin and spread, eliminate conditions conducive to the intensification of terrorist activities, and deradicalize persons prone to extremism and terrorism.

Based on these objectives, the Republic of Uzbekistan has to date ratified 14 international conventions and protocols on countering international extremism and terrorism. The main provisions of them are implemented in our laws such as the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the fight against terrorism” [10] of 2001, “On countering extremism” of 2018 [11], “On combating the legalization of proceeds from crime, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass

destruction” of 2004 [12] and others. Also in recent years, there has been a tightening of punishment in the criminal legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan for such crimes.

It should also be noted that in July 2018, for the first time in the history of Uzbekistan, the above-mentioned Law “On Countering Extremism” was adopted. It provides a clear definition of the concept of “extremism”, and formulates the main directions of state policy in the field of countering extremism by increasing the legal consciousness and legal culture of the population, forming an intolerant attitude towards extremism in society through outreach, legal education and training, scientific and practical events and international cooperation in this area.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 30, 2018 “On countering extremism”, the import, production, storage, distribution and demonstration of extremist materials, paraphernalia and symbols of extremist organizations, as well as their distribution and demonstration in the media, information or telecommunications networks, including the worldwide information network Internet is prohibited on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

It is important to note that the sixth priority direction of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, namely, in approaches to global problems identified on the basis of national interests and the requirements of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, great importance is attached to “Formation of effective mechanisms to counter extremism and terrorism.”

In addition, the “National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Counter Extremism and Terrorism for 2021-2026” approved by the Head of our state [13], is

evidence of the continuity and systematicity of the fight against this evil organized in our country.

The purpose of the Strategy is to ensure effective and coordinated state policy to counter extremism and terrorism. It allows protecting the constitutional order, ensuring national security, as well as the rights and freedoms of citizens.

To summarize the above, it can be stated that terrorism, of course, has a very real and direct impact on human rights, depriving people of the opportunity to enjoy the right to life, liberty and physical and property integrity. In addition to these human losses, terrorism and extremism can undermine the functioning of civil society and pose a threat to the peace, security and socio-economic development of states.

All this explains the importance and relevance of countering terrorism and extremism. It is important to understand that our efforts to prevent and combat these threats will only be effective if they are effectively coordinated and consolidated at the regional and global levels.

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