



**The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:
Achievements and Challenges in Post 9/11 Era**

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Abstract:

Security has always been a topmost priority for human beings on this planet. To obtain security, they have devised various techniques, strategies and philosophies. This human purpose is manifested in the evolution of the international state system. Numerous threats to collective security and peace throughout the world constitute numerous questions on the effectiveness of the United Nations. The dawn of the 21st century denuded problems that made the collective approach towards security even more necessary than before. As the world faces a new wave of terrorism and extremism in the post 9/11 era and a collective response was needed to deal with such issues in the future. On 8th September 2006, the strategy on global terrorism was adopted by the United Nations as an appropriated plan and resolution, so that, terrorism would be nipped off with the support of international, regional, and national efforts. As a result of peacebuilding measures at the global level, particularly in the war-affected Asia countries, the United Nations has to play an effective role in maintaining peace. The emergence of new challenges like; global warming, hunger, overpopulation, illiteracy, poverty, and financial disparity among various nations and different regions are the new lethal enemies of humanity which require new tactics to be beaten.

Keywords: Military interventions, stability, collective approach, counter-terrorism, strategy

INTRODUCTION

The world faces a new wave of terrorism with the 9/11 event and a collective response was needed to deal with such issues in the future and this issue was presented in the U.N which is the only leading organization in the world. The Resolution no 1373 and 1368 was presented as a

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demonstration of sympathy with the U.S government and its people (Franck, 2012). The collective efforts against terrorism and the establishment of a counter-terrorism committee were announced so that fight against terrorism can be implemented and monitored effectively. U.N was put into an awkward situation due to the unilateral and primitive military operations of the United States. Eliminating terrorism was the main focus of the U.N after the 1990s when several countries i.e. Afghanistan, Sudan, and Libya were engaged in terrorist activities, and sanctions were imposed by U.N against these countries under the 1333rd resolution (Gilligan & Sergenti, 2008).

All the member states of the U.N were called on under the 1999 and 1269 resolutions to work collectively to counter-terrorism and this strategy was adopted due to increasing terrorist activities in various parts of the world. 1267 and 1999 resolutions of the U.N were the main tools against terrorist activities before the 9/11 incident. The 1373 resolution was passed after the 9/11 attacks and a Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) was formed by the U.N and all the members were included in this committee. Moreover, U.N made an obligation that the entire member countries should take necessary steps to stop terrorist activities in their countries and regions (Boulden, 2005).

It was also added in this resolution that various types of terrorist activities should be criminalized and equal efforts should be taken for regional peace and all the counterterrorism tools should be followed. Moreover, the U.N also set the requirements for its member countries who had to report their efforts and measures against terrorism to C.T.C on regular basis.

The paper has the following research objectives: To evaluate different strategies necessary for maintaining peace and stability at the global level. To analyse the role the United Nations in promoting global peace and security as a highly critical challenge for the world. To investigate the capability of the UN to undertake the emergence of new challenges in the new millennium.

U.N GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

On 8th September 2006, the strategy on global terrorism was adopted by the United Nations as an annexed plan and resolution, so that, terrorism can be stopped with international, regional, and national efforts and for the first time all the countries under the U.N agreed to work collectively to end up the menace of terrorism. It was communicated that practical steps will be taken to stop various forms of terrorism. One of the main practical steps was to strengthen the countries who are already struggling with such issues and increased regional and international collaboration for collective measures. The commitment of the September 2005 Summit by world leaders was fulfilled by this strategy (Strömbom, 2013).

Various activities to fight against terrorism were gathered under this strategy by U.N, so that, a common framework should be established to stop terrorism. The main focus of the strategy was to increase the capacity of regions, states, and individuals against terrorism without violating the rule of law and human rights. It was also strategized that terrorism activities shouldn't be associated with any ethnic group, civilization, nationality, or religion (Bellamy, 2010).

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The global political system is riddled with conflicts and clashes that are potentially catastrophic for global peace and order. The ever growing tendency of the states, predominantly the major player, of

the world to ignore international legal principles and to sideline the United Nations charter ultimately compromise the overall global peace and security. The objective of the study is to ascertain whether a strict enforcement of the principles of states sovereignty and non-intervention exclusively contained in the United Nations charter has any potential chance of improving the prospects for lasting global peace and order. In this regard, on September 8th, 2006 the United Nations adopted the strategy on global terrorism so that it would be nipped off from the world with the support of local, regional and international efforts. As a result of the peacebuilding measures at the global level, the U.N is expected to play an effective role in promoting order and stability. The emergence of newfangled challenges like; climate change, global warming, hunger and malnutrition, population density, illiteracy, poverty, and financial disparity among various nations and different regions are the new lethal adversaries of humanity that certainly require different strategies to be effectively beaten.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Institutionalization of peace-building: what role for the UN Peacebuilding Commission? 2010 By A.J Bellamy, stated in his article that, it was the century in which democracy and freedom became universal ideals. And it was the century in which humanity showed the signs that it can work collectively in the common interest. The dawn of the 21st century denudes problems that made the collective approach towards security even more necessary than before. The meaning of the very word security has transformed. The old enemies of humanity like war, slavery, imperialism, genocide epidemics have moved to the background, giving way to more massive and potentially deadly enemies which can wipe out life from the globe or at least de-shape it beyond recognition. Global warming, Hunger, Overpopulation, illiteracy, poverty, and financial disparity between nations and regions are the new lethal enemies which require new tactics to be beaten (Bellamy, 2010).

History of Europe (2012) by Green Grass Peacebuilding and maintaining of peace particularly in the war-affected countries of Asia i.e. Afghanistan, and Iraq and U.N played an effective role in maintaining peace in these countries as the situation of these countries is improving steadily UNAMA was developed by peacekeeping mission to support democracy, security, and stability in Afghanistan and following tasks were performed in Afghanistan by UNAMA. One of the major tasks was counter-terrorism because peace can't be maintained without eradicating terrorism, and it was stressed that all the population which was affected should care and a lot of humanitarian aid is needed to support and accomplish this mission. Moreover, BSA (Bilateral Security Agreement) was also initiated with ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) but ANSF was lacking the latest technology, arms, and ammunition, and to deal with these issues, the support of the international community was sought. In this regard, a strategic deal was signed between Afghanistan and India and India donated two billion dollars to counter terrorism and maintain peace in Afghanistan.

Impossible Peace: Israel/Palestine (2013) by M. LeVine, it was almost impossible for any state to provide support to Gaza at this level, therefore, it was managed by the organized process of U.N. The issues of education, food, and housing of Palestinian refugees were also managed through UNRWA for the past several decades. The state actors failed to protect these refugees, and currently, four and a half million individuals are supported by UNRWA. The role of the U.N in the Palestine-Israel conflict is particularly different as it is not involved in the negotiation between the

two parties; therefore, it is not playing any political role as its role is solely on a humanitarian basis (LeVine, 2013).

Forces for Good? Military Masculinities and Peacebuilding in Afghanistan and Iraq (2014) by H. Carreiras, U.N has played an effective role in the peace mission in Israel and Palestine conflict. For example, the role of the U.N was very crucial in helping and conceptualization of framework for the engagement of the international community in this conflict. Moreover, the idea of prime minister was also proposed by U.N in 2002-03 and it was also appreciated by then-president Arafat and in this way, the support of the U.S.A to Palestine was also ensured because, at that time, there was a severe downturn in U.S.A and Palestine relationship. With the support of E.U, U.N has also worked on the financial support for major functions and institutions of Palestine in 2006 as sufficient budget support was not provided by major donors of Palestine at that time (Carreiras, 2014).

One land, two peoples: The conflict over Palestine (2018) by D.J Gerner, the civilians are mostly affected by these conflicts and it was widely discussed by U.N to prevent the civilians from the impacts of conflicts, therefore, U.N played an indispensable role in organizing and managing the security and economic arrangements, so that impact of these conflicts on civilians can be minimized (Gerner, 2018).

COLLECTIVE APPROACH

The United Nations uses a collective approach to tackle some of the most pressing challenges confronting the human race. Global warming is an example of a serious issue that can only be handled via collaborative efforts, due to its high level of challenge. The temperature of the earth is increasing continuously and it is the problem of every state on earth, therefore, collective efforts are needed to resolve this issue. U.N is working seriously on this issue since the 1990s and since then, U.N is working with all of its member states to find a suitable and workable solution to this problem, and material shape to this problem was given in 1997 through the Kyoto protocol and soon positive results of these efforts were observed and celebrated. In 2012, a formula was agreed by member states of the U.N to lower the carbon emission level at the Copenhagen summit followed by continuous conferences and summits on climate change (Jackson, 2014). Several countries took this issue seriously and appoint climate change ministers so that they can work effectively with U.N to solve this issue. Several countries agreed to announce a particular standard for the emission of carbon at the Paris and Hague Summits as the carbon emission was extremely higher in those countries due to industrialization (Falkner, 2016).

Several scholars agreed that leading issues are not local or regional issues but these are international issues and some of these leading issues are deprivation, violence, backwardness, illiteracy, and poverty. If these issues are rising, then, the entire world is affected; for example, due to rising conflicts in Iraq and Syria, a lot of people started migrating to several European countries and it has become difficult for those countries to accommodate those migrants. (Franck, 2012) The world will only be civilized and peaceful if the issue like deprivation, illiteracy, violence, and poverty are eliminated globally.

Globalization has replaced the notion of a nation in today's linked and intertwined globe. The world's population is anticipated to reach 11 billion people by the end of the century, with the majority of this growth occurring in the third world. If such efforts are not made, these less-

developed nations would collapse due to their growing populations and limited resources. (Franke, 2013). Conflicts and instability will have spillover consequences in neighboring nations. However, despite their importance, MDGs and HDIs do not go far enough in eliminating poverty and illiteracy on a worldwide scale. Humanity cannot live without unity and collaborative efforts, thus race, color, faith, and country must be set aside in favor of working as a unit. (Richmond, 2012). As a result, personal interests must be avoided and communal interests are prioritized for the prosperity and happiness of future generations, which can only be accomplished through collaborative efforts and approaches.

Strategically Adopted Framework

Improvements should be made to technical expertise and coherence so that members may be more successful in doing their jobs. Victims and their families should have access to an assistance system that provides them with the appropriate aid and support (Boggs, 2013). State public health needs to take priority and a collective strategy should be developed to ensure that biotechnology innovation is used for the public good and not criminal or terrorist activities. Bioterrorism threats should be identified and addressed. A common database should be created for every biological incident. Anti-terrorist strategies should engage all sub-regional and regional organizations as well as the civil society, and the commercial sector should be involved in preventing terrorist actions on sensitive activities. (Diehl, 2013).

The Internet and technology should be used to fight against terrorism's ever-increasing threats. Furthermore, the customs and border control systems should be upgraded, and the security of travel papers should be strengthened, prevent terrorist travel and operations. Cooperation should be increased to prevent money laundering, which would immediately limit the funding of terrorist organizations (Martha, 2013).

Practical Working Groups for Conflicts Prevention and Resolution

These Task Force has nine working groups for practical activities. Conflict prevention and resolution, as well as fighting against extremism and radicalization, are major causes of terrorism. Response and prevention to weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) attacks, combating terrorist organization funding, and dealing with the use of technology and the internet for terrorist activities, either directly or indirectly Facilitation is required for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy. (Berdal, 2011). The practical group also covers Protection and support to the human rights and vulnerable targets during anti-terrorism activities.

COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

Counter-terrorism Committee the United Nations operates in the following five areas to eradicate terrorism:

1. International cooperation and Law enforcement agencies
2. Domestic security
3. Border control
4. Financing anti-terrorism activities,
5. Legislation (Mullin, 2010).

Various dimensions can be used to assess the performance of the United Nations' policies. The performance of all member states (190) will be measured through five implementation areas in the

first dimension; a country-by-country study will be conducted in all of the above-mentioned areas in the second dimension; and in the third dimension, the progress of the countries will be studied in a set of three independently (Nash, 2012).

Legislation

It is considered the most important area because the fundamental and necessary framework of the strategy is developed on the legislation. Moreover, the implementation rate is also higher on the legislation as several countries are working on the legislation against terrorism. It has been found that implementation in the pipeline or partial implementation on strategy is higher and the score is up to around ninety. This also shows that there is not any implementation strategy for around twenty-seven countries and in this manner, it is considered as the most successful strategy element.

Financing for Counter-Terrorism

Counter-financing of terrorism strategy is successfully and completely implemented by around 45 states world over, and partial implementation of this strategy is also done by almost 96 countries. However, surprisingly and shockingly, there isn't any progress towards implementation by 49 states. From these statistics, it can be assessed that the non-involvement of 49 countries is highly risky and the success of this strategy can be affected badly due to the lowest score of counter financing (Bellamy, 2010).

Border Control Management

Border Control: counter-terrorism efforts can never be successful without border control and this is also implemented by several countries and a balanced result of this strategy has been observed. Law enforcement and domestic control: This is considered as a sustained and long-term strategy as it is part of capacity building of the countries because if there isn't any domestic control on terrorist activities, then, chances of international terrorist activities will be higher, however, it has been found that member states are working effectively to control this issue and positive results have been observed so far. (Duncanson, 2013).

International Cooperation to Eradicate Terrorism

International cooperation: Terrorism can't be controlled and peace can never be maintained if there isn't any international cooperation, therefore, international cooperation is highly required and progress on this front is appreciable as countries are effectively participating and responding to the demands of the international community (Basar, 2014).

Several regions need specific attention, for example, Africa which consists of 55 states and includes the central West, South East, and North parts. In all five areas, no implementation score is higher in this region, and in the complete implementation, this region also scored lowest. It is understood that the political situation in the majority of countries of Africa is not stable that is the main reason for the lowest score. However, this is affecting the international efforts as well. The Caucasus, Pacific Islands, and Asia (Western, South, South-East, and East) which consist of 55 states are considered as the balanced region as significant achievements have been observed in this region (Kovanda, 2014). Similarly, Europe is also lagging behind Asia in the counter-terrorism efforts as partial implementation is higher in this region, although, there are fewer cases of complete implementation.

UN GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

The higher numbers of complete implementation of the counter-terrorism strategy can be observed in the Caribbean, Americas (South and Central), and Europe (Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern), and 83 states are included in this region. However, some specific areas need particular attention in this region; for example, border-control and the counter-financing score is very poor in this region as no implementation score in these areas is extremely higher in this region which require immediate and specific attention

Legislation in Three Regional Group

When evaluating legislative efforts in a group of three nations, the African countries have the lowest score, while the Americas and Europe have the highest. Only 21percent of African nations have completed implementation, compared to 31percent of Asian countries and 54percent of European ones. However, the partial implementation score has entirely altered because it has been determined that partial implementation in European nations is 42 percent. Similarly, African governments have a partial implementation rate of 50percent, while Asian countries have a partial implementation rate of 53percent. Based on these figures, it is possible to conclude that there have been several beneficial advances in undeveloped nations' anti-terror laws. (Chandler, 2016).

Counter-Financing in Three Regional Groups

African countries are lagging in terms of development on this problem since the rate of non-implementation is far greater. For example, the no-implementation percentage for African states is 50percent; whereas, the no-implementation rate for European and Asian countries is significantly lower. The percentage of non-implementation in this category has been determined to be 17percent for both areas. It is particularly astonishing because such a greater percentage does not exist in any other category for Africa. (Chandler, 2016). Asia has the greatest partial implementation rate in this area, while Africa has the lowest. In this area, Asia has 58 percent partial implementation, whereas African nations have just 35 percent, and Europe has 55 percent. Because complete implementation for European and Asian countries is uneven, it is proposed that significant efforts from industrialized countries are necessary. (Chandler, 2016).

Border Control Management in Three Regional Group

In the case of border control, both developing and developed countries have seen unexpected consequences. Asia ranks first in terms of non-implementation, with a proportion of only 15 percent, whereas the European area has a larger ratio of 21 percent. The African area has a greater rate of low implementation (27 percent) than the rest of the world. In the European area, partial adoption of this category is just 25 percent. Similarly, Asian nations have a rate of 27 percent, whereas African countries have a rate of 63 percent. (Chandler, 2016). Asia ranks first in terms of comprehensive execution of this approach, with 58 percent, while the African area has the lowest score, with 10 percent, and European nations have 54 percent. As a result, a thorough assessment of the counterterrorism policy is essential, as are further constructive efforts by industrialized countries in particular.

Law Enforcement and Domestic Security in Three Regional Groups

Less surprise has been observed in this category and normal trends have been observed. The complete implementation is higher in this category in the European region with a percentage of 65, whereas, for the Asian region, it is 51 percent and for the African region, only 13 percent (Chandler, 2016). Partial implementation of this category is higher in the African region where it is 42 percent, whereas, it is 28 percent for European countries, and 34 percent for the Asian region. Low implementation of this category is extremely higher for African countries where it is 55 percent, similarly, it is 15 percent for Asian countries and seven percent for the European region. Although, additional efforts are required in some developing countries, however, results are positive in general (Brinkerhoff, 2015).

International Cooperation in Three Regional Groups

Complete implementation is high in this area for European nations since it is implemented by the European region; similarly, the percentage for Asia is also excellent at 47 percent; nevertheless, this score is significantly lower in the African region at just 13 percent. The European area has the lowest rate of partial implementation of international collaboration, at 20 percent. The African area has a greater partial implementation rate of 58 percent, whereas the Asian region has a lower rate of 40 percent. There was no adoption of this approach in 29 percent of African nations, 10 percent in European countries, and 13 percent in Asian countries. The trends for this approach are quite strong and favorable, and there are good indicators for its success because no implementation score is truly lower. (Chesterman, 2014).

CONCLUSION

The strategy of the United Nations on global terrorism was adopted by world leaders on 8th September 2006 as an annexed plan and resolution. The main focus of the strategy was to increase the capacity of various countries in different regions against the menace of terrorism without violating the rule of law and human rights. It was strategized that terrorism activities shouldn't be associated with any ethnic group, civilization, nationality, or religion. In order to curtail lethal acts of terrorism and violence, the UN adopted a series of comprehensive strategies, through international cooperation and law enforcement agencies to enhance the domestic security, border control, financing anti-terrorism activities, legislation, and legislation predominantly promulgated by the U.N Counter-Terrorism Committee. Various dimensions can be used to measure the success of these strategies. It has been found that implementation in the pipeline or partial implementation on strategy is higher and the score is ninety.

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