

# **United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)**

Statement at International Meeting on Chemical Safety and Security  
Tarnow, 8 November 2012

Mr. Zeeshan Amin  
Political Affairs Officer

*Precis: United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) support for the CBRN safety and security; announcement of a new project to prevent attacks against chemical installations and on promoting chemical security culture.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office, better known as CTITF, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Government of Poland and the European Union in organizing this important meeting. Thanks also to the distinguished mayor of Tarnow for his welcome remarks.

The United Nations CTITF welcomes the establishment of the International Centre on chemical safety and security in Tarnow. The CTITF is ready to contribute and cooperate with the Centre in national capacity building in chemical safety and security and in increasing potential and expertise of the UN entities in these areas.

The CTITF brings together 31 member entities of the United Nations family and key international organizations to provide a coherent and coordinated multilateral approach against terrorism, and the value of the CTITF is encapsulated in the wide-range of expertise and experience housed within its member entities, OPCW among them. OPCW has been a valuable member of the CTITF since the establishment of the CTITF by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2005, and OPCW has been extremely constructive in the joint efforts of the CTITF in supporting Member States in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The CTITF also assists Member States of the United Nations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2006. The Global Strategy was a milestone achievement, since it was the first time that all 192 UN Member States agreed to formulate a comprehensive and collective plan to counter-terrorism.

In the Strategy, Member States welcomed the role of CTITF to ensure coordination and coherence of the UN system-wide counter-terrorism efforts. CTITF thus

functions under the framework of the Strategy with a particular focus on supporting Member States' implementation of the Strategy.

As I mentioned earlier, the CTITF inter-agency process now consists of 31 entities within and outside the UN system, including many of you present at the exercise here, including IAEA, ODA, 1540 expert group, UNODC, UNICRI, in addition to OPCW.

In the context of this meeting, I would like to draw specific attention to relevant elements in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as relevant CTITF initiatives. The Global Strategy specifically cites the danger of WMD attacks and calls upon Member States, the United Nations specialized agencies and relevant international organizations to cooperate to prevent this threat from becoming reality. Under pillar II of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which covers measures to prevent and combat terrorism, member States invites the United Nations to improve coordination in planning a response to an attack using nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons or materials so that Member States can receive adequate assistance.

In Pillar II of the Strategy, Member States decided “to encourage the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to continue their efforts, within their respective mandates, in helping States to build capacity to prevent terrorists from accessing nuclear, chemical or radiological materials, to ensure security at related facilities and to respond effectively in the event of an attack using such materials.”

The CTITF Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attacks, which is co-chaired by OPCW and IAEA, was established to support the implementation of such measures covered under the Strategy. The Working Group has produced a report on “Interagency Coordination in the Event of a Terrorist Attack Using Chemical or Biological Weapons and Materials”, with over 20 international organisations contributing to it. You will find copies of the report outside. The report, coordinated by Krzysztof, concluded, inter alia, that chemical plants are at increased risk of terrorist attacks and the international system should strengthen efforts to enhance safety and security at chemical and biological plants and in the transportation of chemicals. It stated that international organisations should work towards a global chemical security culture.

In response to this important recognition, the CTITF has developed a new project to implement the recommendations of this report of the CTITF, a programme to enhance interagency cooperation in the prevention of and preparedness for terrorist attacks against chemical plants and in the transport of chemicals, as well as in the promotion of a chemical security culture.

The overall objective of the project is to facilitate interagency exchange of knowledge, improve understanding and disseminate best practices, and share experiences

in the prevention of, and preparedness for, terrorist attacks against chemical installations, and to enhance chemical security culture.

The project will increase inter- and intra-organizational knowledge and raise awareness of chemical security issues. It will bring together resources, responsibilities and capabilities in improving chemical security, and will create new training and learning opportunities for reducing the threat of chemical terrorism. In order to address urgent and specific needs of the Middle East, for example, where a vast development of chemical industries has taken place and where the threat of terrorism is very imminent, the project could address the specific needs of countries to support chemical safety and security.

The project will be implemented with the active multi-stakeholder participation, the private chemical industry, and centres on chemical safety and security, including the International centre on chemical safety and security in Tarnow, and promote public-private partnerships in enhancing chemical security.

The project will also engage all the agencies which work with in the CTITF Working Group on WMD Terrorism, including Interpol, WHO, IAEA, IMO, ICAO, UNICRI, OPCW, UNODA, and the 1540 Committee.

Through the project the relevant agencies could enhance their response mechanism to the chemical threats within their respective environment. Therefore the project will initiate new form of work within the CTITF to serve as a platform to discuss ways to upgrade UN entities' capabilities to respond to the changing environment and the growing needs of UN Member States.

In general the implementation of this project will place the UN as an important venue for raising the issues of global development of chemical activities and industries within the context of the need to support national and regional capacity building against chemical terrorism. It has to be stressed that the project, while stressing the need to enhance interagency cooperation, also concentrates on the development of the tools which could be helpful for Member States to fight chemical terrorism.

Once again, we thank OPCW for its active leadership in the CTITF working group on preventing and responding to WMD attacks, and we thank other CTITF entities present here for their engagement in this initiative. We will continue to count on your partnership on supporting the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy fully and effectively so that all States can benefit from concrete and meaningful assistance, wherever needed, to counter the threat of chemical terrorism.

Thank you.