OSCE COUNTER-TERRORISM NETWORK
TERMS OF REFERENCE

The primary purpose of the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network (CTN) is to promote the strengthening of co-ordination of counter-terrorism measures and information-sharing between OSCE participating States. In particular, it aims to strengthen the liaison between the delegations of participating States, counter-terrorism officials in capitals and the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU).[1] The Network facilitates timely exchanges of information on counter-terrorism programmes, training and legal developments initiated by the OSCE and participating States, as well as on open-source analyses concerning trends in terrorist phenomena. The primary emphasis will be placed on supporting and supplementing the work of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in implementing Security Council resolution 1373. The CTN is not intended to be a conduit for intelligence or other sensitive information, nor does it seek to duplicate functions of other international and regional law-enforcement networks.

Each government will designate a principal liaison to serve, through its OSCE delegation, as the principal contact point with the ATU on counter-terrorism matters. The principal liaison will ensure that communications from the ATU are forwarded to the appropriate government authorities in the capital concerned, and that the ATU and delegations are similarly informed in a timely manner of relevant developments in the participating State. In order to foster co-ordination, communications through the Counter-Terrorism Network passing between the ATU and a principal liaison will in principle be transmitted through the OSCE delegation of the State concerned.

Responsibilities of the ATU

1.   Inform participating States of bilateral as well as multilateral training opportunities related to counter-terrorism matters, and work with principal liaisons to take full advantage of such programmes.

2.   Co-ordinate and facilitate OSCE counter-terrorism activities, including capacity-building assistance programmes, training and contingency-preparedness workshops, with a view to effectively utilizing resources and averting duplication.

3.   Respond to information and requests for action from principal liaisons in a timely manner.

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[1]   The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has supported the development of such regional networks to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination. The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), within the Organization of American States, has already developed a regional hemispheric network of national points of contact. The ATU is grateful for and acknowledges CICTE's advice and assistance in developing the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network.

4.   Ensure that, through the delegations, the principal liaisons are kept fully informed of developments regarding significant counter-terrorism matters that affect the OSCE region, by means of regular distribution by email of an ATU newsletter and of regular updates of the OSCE ATU home page.

5.   Co-ordinate with the principal liaison, through the delegation concerned, when an OSCE ATU official travels to a participating State in connection with terrorism-related matters.

Responsibilities of principal liaisons

1.   Ensure that communications from the ATU reach the appropriate government offices, and that responses to the ATU are forwarded in a timely manner.

2.   Provide information to the ATU about significant national developments regarding action to combat terrorism, including new counter-terrorism legislation[2], counter-terrorism training or assistance programmes and examples of national "best practices".

3.   Communicate information on seminars, workshops and conferences related to counter-terrorism concerns that participating States may host, and that are open to outside participation.

4.   Serve as the principal co-ordinator for OSCE anti-terrorism seminars, workshops and conferences involving the principal liaison's participating State.

5.   Co-ordinate, prioritize and communicate, on behalf of the participating State concerned, training and assistance needs and requests related to counter-terrorism matters that the OSCE might support or facilitate.

Means of communication and support

The ATU will, where possible and appropriate, use Internet-based technologies to communicate with principal liaisons and others on the CTN, with email being the most common tool. Principal liaisons are, however, encouraged to consult the OSCE and CTC web sites regularly. As needed, the ATU will recommend meetings of principal liaisons to participating States, subject to authorization by the Permanent Council and availability of funding, either on the margins of other annual OSCE meetings such as the Annual Security Review Conference, or as a separate event.

One P-1 contracted position will be added to the ATU staff in 2004 to support the development and maintenance of the CTN

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[2]   The OSCE ATU relies on official notifications of ratification through the web sites of the relevant depositories of anti-terrorism instruments for the most accurate information on ratification.