

United Nations Security Council Adopts Resolution 2370 on Preventing Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons

On August 2, 2017, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons. The Council, strongly condemning the continued flow of weapons, military equipment, unmanned aircraft systems (UASs) and their components, and improvised explosive device (IED) components to and between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh), Al-Qaida, their affiliates, and associated groups, illegal armed groups and criminals, laid emphasis on the fact that the destabilizing accumulation and misuse of these weapons continue to pose threats to international peace and security and cause significant loss of life.

The Council has by this resolution encouraged Member States, inter alia, to: a) prevent and disrupt procurement networks for weapons, systems and components between and among such groups and entities, b) ensure the ability to take appropriate legal actions against those who are knowingly engaged in providing terrorists with weapons and to ensure proper physical security and management for stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, c) implement the marking and tracing procedures of small arms and light weapons to improve traceability of such weapons which could be provided to terrorists through illicit trafficking, d) strengthen their judicial, law enforcement and border-control capacities, and develop their capabilities to investigate arms-trafficking networks in order to address the link between transnational organized crime and terrorism, and e) consider becoming party to the related international and regional instruments, with a view to help eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists, and to fully implement their respective obligations under those to which they are a party.

The resolution, therefore, specifically aims at further enhancing the effectiveness of instruments relating to disarmament and arms control implemented at the national, regional and international levels to curb the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons and explosive elements for manufacture of improvised explosive devices. At the thematic briefing the Security Council had discussed present and emerging threats, trends and developments relating to this topic in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions to identify gaps in Member States' efforts to implement measures to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists.

Some of the Member States of AALCO also made their statements at the 8017th Meeting of the Council, on the 2 August, 2017, supporting the resolution 2370, which was unanimously adopted by all Member States of the UN. AALCO Member States emphasized that arming terrorists was an extremely serious matter, and that this was a crime no less heinous than the crime of terrorism itself. They also stated that a holistic approach was needed to close loopholes that may make weapons available to terrorist organizations, that Member States have a primary role to play in

ensuring that, and that they must strengthen their capabilities to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons and to support such efforts in other countries.