

Session 3: Beijing 2010 Instruments - Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (Beijing, 2010)

ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop

Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
25 February 2026

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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



*“For nearly two decades, UNODC has been at the forefront of efforts to **promote universalization and effective implementation of the counter-terrorism international legal instruments...** We stand ready to continue to provide tailor-made technical and legal assistance towards these aims.”*

UNODC's mandate to counter CBRN terrorism

UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/226

Para 24: *The General Assembly [...] requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, within its mandate, to develop its specialized knowledge of the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism as enshrined in the relevant conventions and protocols in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in the effective legal, operational and technical implementation of these instruments, including through capacity-building.*



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UNODC's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism CBRN Terrorism Prevention Programme



- HQ in Vienna, Austria
- Six (6) staff members, *ad hoc* consultants
- 11 languages
- UNODC field presence (18 field offices, 98 countries, 137 physical locations)

UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch



Promote adherence to 19 international legal instruments against terrorism (including the 2010 Beijing Convention and other ICAO instruments)



Assist MS in bringing their CT legislation in line with these instruments



Strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters



Build the capacity of criminal justice officials to prevent and combat terrorism (including CBRN terrorism)

International legal instruments against terrorism

- 1963 Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft
- 1970 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft
- 1971 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation
- 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents
- 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages
- 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)*
- 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation
- 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation
- 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf
- 1991 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection
- 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings*
- 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism
- 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism*
- 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM*
- 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation*
- 2005 Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf*
- **2010 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts relating to International Civil Aviation***
- 2010 Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft
- 2014 Protocol to the Convention on Offences and Certain other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft

* International legal instruments against CBRN terrorism
ICAO Instruments

International legal instruments against CBRN terrorism

Seven instruments adopted under the auspices of four organizations

United Nations Instruments



IAEA Instruments



ICAO Instruments



IMO Instruments



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International conventions and protocols against CBRN Terrorism

Common elements:

- ✓ Criminalization
- ✓ Jurisdiction
- ✓ Principle 'extradite or prosecute'
- ✓ International cooperation



International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)

170 parties as of February 2026

Entry into force: 23 May 2001

Depositary: UN

- Criminalizes the act of delivering, placing, discharging or detonating in/into/against various **defined public places** an explosive or other lethal device with the intent to cause death, serious bodily injury or extensive material damage
- “Explosive or other lethal device” defined as a weapon or device that is designed, or has the capability, to cause death, serious bodily injury or substantial material damage through the release, dissemination or impact of toxic chemicals, biological agents or toxins or similar substances or radiation or radioactive material
- Prosecution is not foreseen unless an offence is completed or attempted

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Evolution as a Response to International Illicit Procurement Networks and Terrorism and Other Criminal Threats



The 2005 SUA treaties include a substantial broadening of the range of offences including, for example:

- the use of a ship in a manner that causes death or serious injury or damage;
- the transport of terrorists in order to evade criminal prosecution; or
- the unauthorized maritime transport of weapons of mass destruction.

They are therefore the first international legal instruments dealing with the prevention and suppression of maritime-related CBRN terrorism. The 2010 Beijing Convention mirrored this evolution.

Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005 SUA Convention)

54 parties as of February 2026

Entry into force: 28 July 2010

Depositary: IMO

- Amends the existing maritime legal regime (1988)
- Includes CBRN-related offences
- Creates new offences when the purpose of the act is to intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or international organization to do or abstain from doing any act:
 - Using (or threatening to use) any explosive, radioactive material or BCN weapon against or on a ship
 - Discharging (or threatening to discharge) any explosive, radioactive material or BCN weapon from a ship
 - Unlawfully transporting on board a ship any BCN weapon or any explosive or radioactive material, or related equipment, materials, software or technology

Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005 SUA Protocol)

49 parties as of February 2026

Entry into force: 28 July 2010

Depositary: IMO

- Also amends the existing maritime legal regime applicable to fixed platforms located on the continental shelf
- Creates new offences when the purpose of the act in question is to intimidate a population, compel a Government or international organization to do or abstain from doing any act:
 - Using (or threatening to use) any explosive, radioactive material or BCN weapon against or on a fixed platform
 - Discharging (or threatening to discharge) any explosive, radioactive material or BCN weapon from a fixed platform

Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (2010 Beijing Convention)

56 parties as of February 2026

Entry into force: 1 July 2018

Depositary: ICAO

- Modernizes the legal framework for aviation security to deal with new and emerging threats against civil aviation, including the use of BCN weapons or substances
- Criminalizes:
 - The use of a civil aircraft to **release or discharge** any **BCN weapon** or **explosive, radioactive or similar substances**
 - The use of **any BCN weapon or explosive, radioactive or similar substances** on board or against **civil aircraft**
 - The unlawful transport of any BCN weapon, explosive or radioactive material or related equipment, materials, software or technology

UNODC's technical and legislative assistance



- **Outreach and awareness raising** (workshops, seminars, visits)



- **Capacity-building activities** for criminal justice officials (workshops, webinars, mock trials, table-top exercises)



- **Capacity-building tools** (manuals, e-learning modules)



- **Legislative assistance and related tools**



- **Other tools**

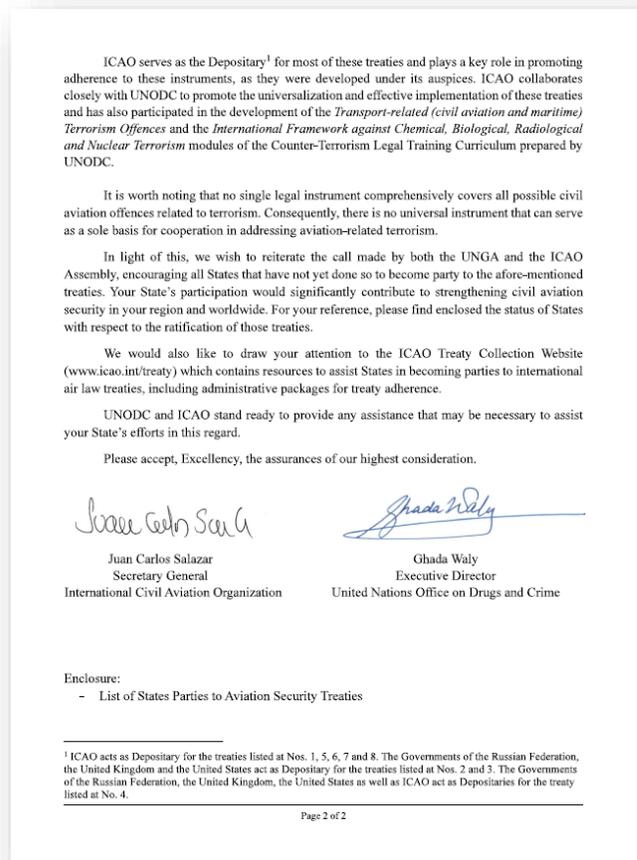
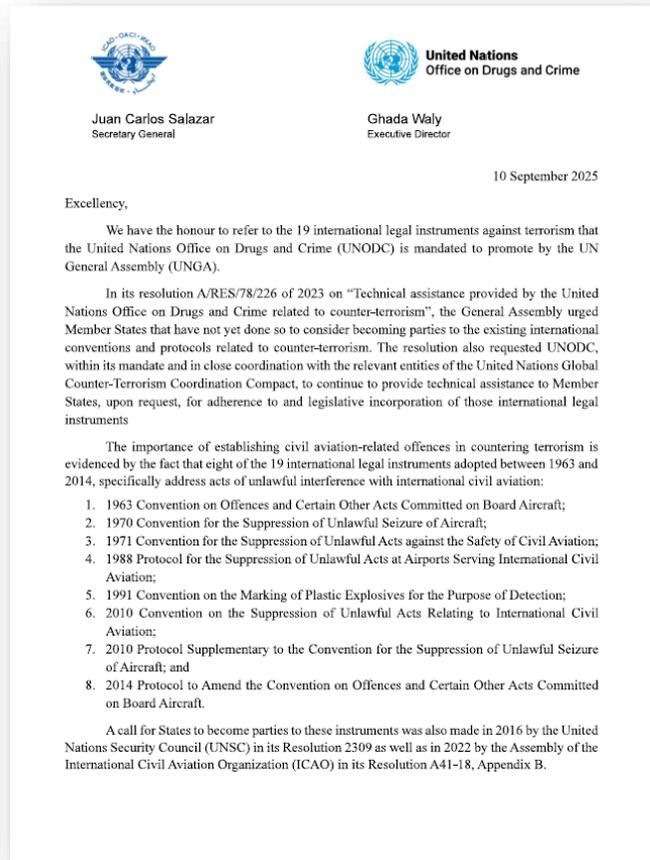
Legislative assistance tools

- **Legislative assistance** Available upon request
- **Unofficial translations** of all instruments are available upon request for non-official UN languages subject to resources
- **SHERLOC** facilitates the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism
 - Database of legislation, including on countering terrorism
 - Case law and treaties database



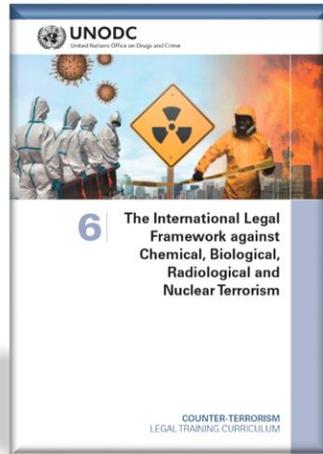
SHERLOC  SHARING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES
AND LAWS ON CRIME

ICAO SG-UNODC ED Joint Letter on Aviation Security Instruments (2025)



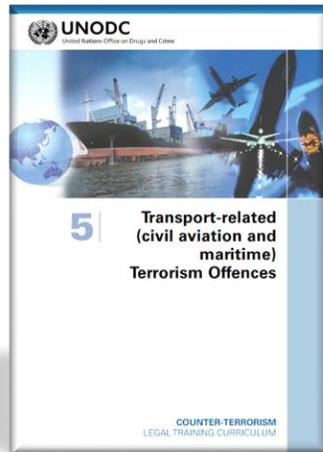
Joint letter sent to UNODC accredited Permanent Missions and ICAO General Assembly Member States not yet party to one or more of the eight aviation security instruments

Capacity-building tools



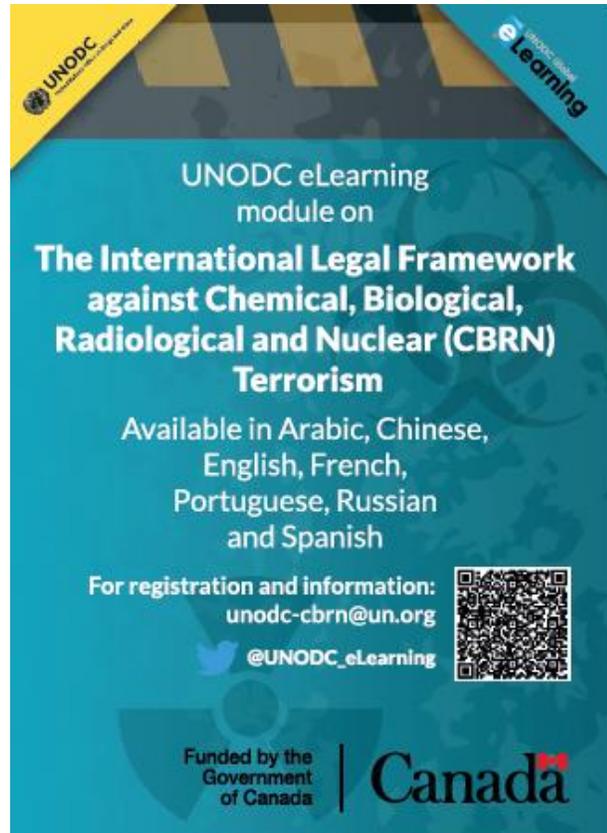
Module Six of Counter-Terrorism legal training curriculum

- All six official UN languages



Module Five of Counter-Terrorism legal training curriculum

Capacity-building tools



eLearning module on the international legal instruments against CBRN terrorism:

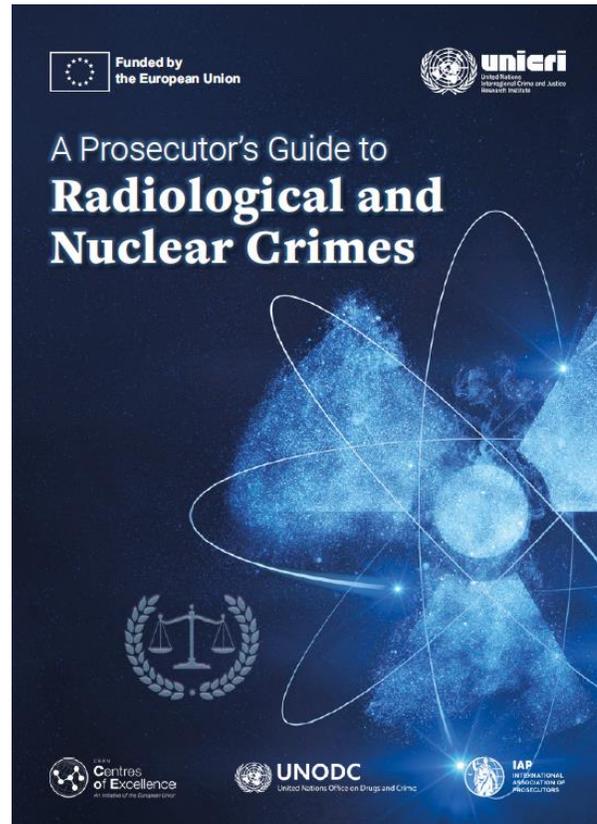
- 3,300+ practitioners from 130+ States
- Available in all six official UN languages + Portuguese

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Prosecutor's Guide on Radiological and Nuclear Crimes



- UNICRI-IAP-JRC-UNODC initiative
- Guidance for prosecutors, investigators and law enforcement and judicial authorities to support the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of radiological/nuclear crimes

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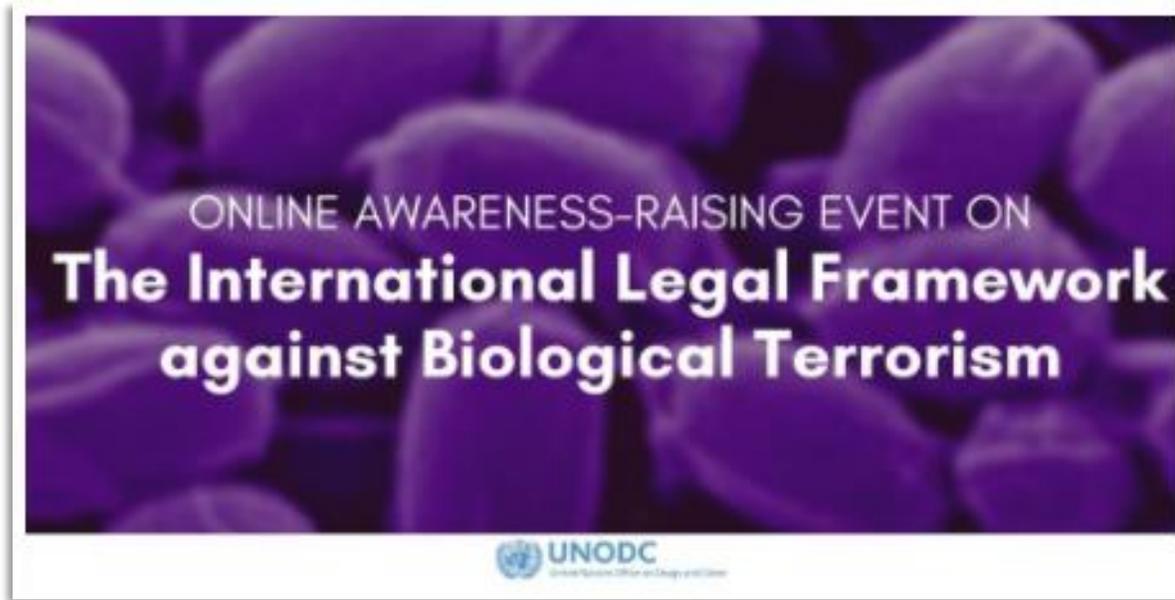


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Online Awareness-Raising Event on the International Legal Framework against Biological Terrorism (2020)



- BWC ISU
- ICAO
- IMO
- INTERPOL
- James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies
- UNODC

Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 and 17

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW AND ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.



STRENGTHEN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND COMBAT TERRORISM AND CRIME

Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.



ENHANCE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

Thank You!

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