

## **SWITZERLAND'S ENGAGEMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY**

Within the reporting period, Switzerland has been mobilizing the following resources and expertise in support of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy: It has worked closely with counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, in particular the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Monitoring Team, and is co-financing a study to explore the feasibility of developing terrorist financing indicators. Furthermore, Switzerland decided to co-sponsor a follow-on initiative led by CTITF on the implementation of the Strategy at the regional level in South-East Asia, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, the West/North Africa, and South Asia. To support the development of a close and mutually reinforcing relationship between the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the United Nations and other regional organizations, Switzerland will convene a conference in February 2012.

**Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism:** Switzerland, inter alia, made the following contributions:

- a. It contributed approximately CHF 10 million to the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), financial support to the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), security and military capacity building in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya,
- b. It gave financial support to date of CHF 5.4 million to the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA).

**Measures to prevent and combat terrorism:** Examples of Switzerland's recent engagement regarding "Pillar II" of the Strategy are the following:

- a. Seven States have submitted nineteen requests for mutual legal assistance to Switzerland in the context of radical Islamism, extreme left-wing organizations and ethno-nationalist movements since September 2010. Five requests were carried out, four were denied, one was withdrawn and the others are in the process of being carried out. In cases extradition had to be denied because of the principle of non-refoulement, Switzerland has offered to accept requests for transfer of proceedings. Switzerland has submitted sixteen requests for mutual legal assistance to nine States in the context of radical Islamism and ethno-nationalist movements. One request was carried out, one was denied, and the others are in the process of being carried out.
- b. The Office of the Attorney General of the Swiss Confederation, together with the Federal Criminal Police, had conducted several inquiries against persons suspected of terrorist financing and/or membership in and support of a criminal organization with a terrorist background.
- c. Legal proceedings have been initiated by the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Confederation with regard to parcel bomb explosions in Swiss embassies in Athens (November 2010) and Rome (December 2010) and a company representing the interests of nuclear energy producers in Olten, Switzerland.
- d. Investigations are being conducted into two individuals residing in Switzerland who are suspected of supporting a jihadist organization through propaganda, financial activities and the management of jihadist websites. These investigations helped to identify propagandist activities on the internet.
- e. In the beginning of 2011, a person was sentenced for the support of criminal activities of the Salafist Group for Call and Combat.

- f. In 2011, Switzerland organized a high level seminar drawing 65 participants from 18 countries, focusing on anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CTF) for the financial sector of ECOWAS member states and Maghreb countries. 18 non-binding recommendations in the fields of customer due diligence, politically exposed persons, audit and beneficial owner were compiled.
- g. In 2010, the Money-Laundering Reporting Office of Switzerland received 13 reports relating to the suspected financing of terrorism totaling CHF 23,098,233, or 2.73% of the total amounts frozen that year. Four of these reports are still being processed; the other cases have been dismissed since the suspicions were not corroborated.
- h. Switzerland is funding a CTITF initiative led by the CTED on “Preventing the abuse of the non-profit sector to finance terrorism”.
- i. In 2010, a new unit with 16 posts has been created within the Federal Criminal Police to intensify the fight against cybercriminality.
- j. To combat document fraud, Switzerland introduced the new e-passport with a digitally stored facial image and two fingerprints on 1 March 2010. The Federal Office of the Police is represented in the International Civil Aviation organization (ICAO), Technical Advisory Group (TAG) the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) and the Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG). Switzerland has been one of the first States to be participating in the Public Key Directory of the (ICAO).

**Measures to build State’s capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard:**

- a. Switzerland has conducted increased security assistance and counter-terrorism capacity building programs in different countries and regions, in particular Central Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. It has primarily conducted and is currently engaged in activities related to AML/CFT, the establishment of FIUs, border security, critical infrastructure protection, legislative assistance, security sector reform, human rights training for law enforcement officials and further areas for which Switzerland had relevant expertise.
- b. With a contribution of USD 5 million to the IMF Topical Trust Fund (TTF) AML/CFT, Switzerland assists partner countries to comply with international standards on AML/CFT. Since 2010, Switzerland has been supporting the Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML) of the UNODC with USD 1.6 million.

**Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism:**

- a. In support of “Pillar IV”, Switzerland has earmarked funds for the protection and promotion of human rights and pluralistic civil societies in “Arab spring countries” and has supported OHCHR’s work through the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation.
- b. In a letter sent to the Security Council on 6 April 2011, Switzerland, together with ten other Member States, presented proposals aimed at strengthening the competences of the Ombudsperson of the 1267 Committee and thus fair and transparent procedures. Switzerland’s cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsperson, including a confidentiality arrangement, has led to the de-listing of one individual residing in Switzerland.