

Securing the Future Initiative: Ways Forward in the Security Council

New York
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Overview

To conclude over a year of engagements designed to assess the UN Security Council's (UNSC) counterterrorism work over the past 20 years, and to help reform its future, the [Securing the Future Initiative](#) (SFI) convened its last workshop in the final weeks of 2022. Bringing together current and incoming members of the Security Council for a closed-door discussion, these conversations centered on operationalizing the analysis and recommendations of the SFI report – [Counterterrorism and the United Nations Since 9/11: Moving Beyond the 2001 Paradigm](#) – and plotting ways for the Security Council to move forward on CT issues.

Member state representatives assessed Security Council counterterrorism activities, the intersection of Council counterterrorism with wider UN work, and evolving and emerging terrorist threats and priorities. After a briefing on key SFI findings and perspectives, based on engagements with over 500 international stakeholders, participants were briefed on key recommendations derived from these discussions. These recommendations called for integrating the UN's exceptionalized CT architecture into the UN's wider work on peace and security, human rights, and development; strengthening transparency and accountability in Council CT efforts; fostering a bottom-up, "do no harm" approach that allows for greater civil society inclusion; and allowing regional and subregional organizations and other implementing partners to better tailor their approaches to preventing and countering terrorism to local contexts.



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The conversation reflected Council members' diverse experiences and perspectives, as well as structural issues and working methods that shape the work of both the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 Sanctions Committee. While most participants believed the Council's regime remained relevant, several called for its fine-tuning in order to meet the shifting threats and dynamics of a post-9/11 landscape. Others suggested reassessing counterterrorism efforts to ensure they do not adversely affect other pressing global challenges, such as climate change, armed conflict, and skyrocketing humanitarian needs. At the same time, several participants stressed the need to address regional challenges and include a wider array of partners, including civil society actors. A number of SFI recommendations were debated, and participants considered if or how they might be operationalized in the near, medium, and long-term.

This closed door workshop for UNSC Member States was followed by a reception welcoming diplomats, UN officials, experts, and civil society organizations who had participated in SFI meetings and consultations, and whose contributions deeply enriched the analysis and recommendations presented in the outcome report.



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