Introduction

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a growing threat to international peace and security. While the international treaty regimes and export controls arrangements have slowed the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and delivery systems, a number of states have sought or are seeking to develop such weapons. This is typically the case in some Middle East regions and North Korea. The risk that terrorists will acquire chemical, biological, radiological or fissile materials and their means of delivery adds a new critical dimension to this threat.

Being part of United Nations, GA1 cannot ignore these dangers. Proliferation of various WMD and chemical weapons puts at risk the security of our states, our peoples and our interests around the world. Meeting this challenge must be a central element in our committee’s action. The objective is to prevent, deter and where possible eliminate proliferation programmes of concern worldwide.

Non-proliferation of weapons can make an essential contribution in the global fight against terrorism, by reducing the risk of several States gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, radioactive materials, and means of delivery.

Definition of Key Terms

Chemical weapons

Chemical substances that can be delivered using munitions and dispersal devices to cause death or severe harm to people and animals and plants.

Weapon of mass destruction (WMD)

They are chemical, biological or radioactive weapons capable of causing widespread death and destruction.

CBRN
It is abbreviation for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and materials of mass destruction.

**Terrorism**

Terrorism is criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes.

**Bioterrorism**

Bioterrorism refers to the release of toxic biological agents to harm and terrorize civilians, in the name of a political or other cause.

**Nuclear terrorism**

This is the use, or threat of the use, of nuclear weapons or radiological weapons in acts of terrorism, including attacks against facilities where radioactive materials are present. They are the deadliest of all other methods of WMD.

**UN Commission on Conventional Armaments (UNCCA)**

UNCCA was founded in 1946. The goal of the commission is to find ways to reduce the size of non-nuclear armaments around the world. The Commission was formally established by the Security Council on 15 February 1947.

**Al Qaeda**

Al Qaeda is a global militant Islamist organization founded by Osama bin Laden in Peshawar, Pakistan. Al-Qaeda has attacked civilian and military targets in various countries, including the September 11 attacks, 1998 U.S. embassy bombings and the 2002 Bali bombings.

**Black market**

It is also called an informal market/sector. Black market is an illegal traffic or trade in officially controlled or scarce commodities. Large volumes of WMD are traded in the black market.

**History**

**Origin of the term WMD**

The UN Commission on Conventional Armaments (UNCCA) generated the first authoritative WMD definition in 1948. The Security Council established the CCA in 1947 in response to a recommendation contained in General Assembly Resolution 41(I), which recommended the creation of such a committee, made three mentions of the need to eliminate or prohibit “atomic and all other major
weapons adaptable now or in the future to mass destruction." The Security Council directed the commission to develop proposals for the reduction and regulation of armaments and armed forces, but told it to exclude any matters that were the responsibility of the Atomic Energy Commission.

**Categories of WMD**

*Nuclear weapons*

Nuclear weapons are the deadliest of all WMDS, as they cause most damage to both humans and the environment. It also takes a long period of time to recover. The acquisition of nuclear weapons is both expensive and difficult. The fissile material (plutonium or enriched uranium) and the infrastructure needed to produce them cannot be easily accessed. They are not prominently used compared to other WMDs, as the consequences are severe.

*Biological weapons*

Biological weapons can be obtained easily and at affordable prices. Their production or acquisition cannot be successfully monitored and the evidence of production programs can be hidden and traditional anti-terrorist sensor systems are unable to detect them. The main obstacle regarding their use is their dissemination. These weapons are less likely to cause mass casualties.

*Chemical weapons*

Similar to biological weapons, chemical weapons are relatively easy to acquire. Their production requires more advanced infrastructure in comparison to biological weapons, but it is not as complex as the production of nuclear weapons. As far as their dissemination is concerned, it is more effective when done in aerosol form and on an indoor population, as it is always weather-dependent. It is one of the most frequently used WMD.

**Key Issues**

**Al Qaeda**

From the early 1990s there have been allegations that Al Qaeda is trying to enter the WMD black market. Osama Bin Laden, in 1998, has officially claimed that acquiring weapons of mass destruction is his “Islamic duty”. In any case, the first attack with weapons of mass destruction was in February of 1993, when a car bomb exploded in New York’s world trade center using cyanide gas and killing five people. It has never been proven that Al Qaeda has actually conducted another WMD attack but via investigation it is believed that they had access to these kinds of weapons and created camps in order to train individuals in terrorist camps.

**Terrorist camps**
Terrorist camps are locations where terrorists learn the main principles of terrorism and the use of weapons. We do not have the exact knowledge neither of the number nor the function of these training camps, so we cannot eliminate the chance of WMD training. Many of these camps have been found in Pakistan and Afghanistan and it is known that Al Qaeda has used them frequently in the past.

**WMD Black markets (informal markets)**

Black markets are already a prominent supplier of WMD. Several black market networks in Asia have already supplied States such as Iran with gas centrifuge to aid with terrorist attacks. Currently, there is no legal way to find the material needed to produce weapons of mass destruction. Therefore WMD black markets are prominent on the globe. Countries such as Iran and North Korea that are suspected to possess weapons of mass destruction, despite the conventions signed, seem like the ones that may be able to support this kind of market. Nations are working hard to find out about these markets, and especially the ones that suffered an attack, like the United States of America, have set it as a vital priority.

**Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

**United States of America**

Having suffered several terrorist attacks, the United States of America has set combating Weapons of Mass Destruction and terrorism as one of its primary goals. Therefore it has taken national initiatives, such as the creation of FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate (WMDD), whose occupation is to ensure that terrorist groups or nations (United Kingdom, China, Russia, and United States, which have the right to possess but not use WMD) will not obtain weapons of mass destruction. In addition, it is officially claimed by the USA that Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are enemies. USA has times played a key role in the international diplomacy and exercised pressure in order to adopt measures to prevent the danger.

**Pakistan**

The international community has repeatedly expressed its concern regarding Pakistan’s development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and has demanded additional measures that will strengthen the security of its nuclear program. Given the intense presence of al-Qaeda in the country and despite the fact that the Taliban has stated that Pakistan’s nuclear weapons program is not one of their targets15, there is still an increased possibility of Pakistan’s weapons falling into the wrong hands. At the recent Conference on Disarmament, Pakistan asked for universal, non-discriminatory and legally binding security measures by nuclear and non-nuclear states, accusing major countries of blatant violations concerning their national and international non-proliferation obligations.
There is also existence of an illegal market in Pakistan that may be able to supply terrorists with the raw material for the construction of weapons of mass destruction, the intense presence of Al Qaeda in this nation and the estimate that in Pakistan exist more than 40 terrorist training camps.

**Russian Federation**

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, control over the WMDs that the country used to possess as well as all relevant information and technology were temporarily lost. As a result, Russia became vulnerable to theft by regional terrorist groups. Due to its possession of the largest stockpile of WMDs worldwide, the Russian Federation’s role in combating WMDs and terrorism is of vital importance. Its national security strategy includes arms control agreements and WMD reduction programmes.

**Demographic People’s Republic of Korea**

After refusing to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for six years, DPRK announced the development of its nuclear programme. Because there are no nuclear security measures in the country, threats of terrorist groups in the area is prominent. DPRK is also providing other States with WMD on a large scale, supporting the black market and other Middle Eastern countries.

**Iraq**

Iraq's history with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons is a long and winding path that eventually ended in an American invasion of the country.

In between Saddam Hussein's rise and fall from power, Iraq developed and used weapons of mass destruction (WMD). It also reluctantly submitted to international inspections and destroyed its stockpiles and means of WMD production. In the end, though, the government's opaque and obstinate nature made it difficult for outsiders to tell exactly what Iraq was doing, if anything, in the realm of WMD.

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

NATO places a high priority on preventing the proliferation of WMD and defending against CBRN threats and hazards. At the 2010 Lisbon Summit, NATO and the US Government called for universal adherence to, and compliance with, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the additional protocol to the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguard Agreement, called for full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

**Operation Active Endeavour (OAE)**

Operation Active Endeavour (OAE) is a NATO maritime cooperation that contributed to the fight against terrorism by patrolling the Mediterranean Sea and monitoring shipping to help detect, defer and protect against terrorist activity.

**Sovereign states**
Nuclear-weapon states

There are eight sovereign states that have successfully detonated nuclear weapons. Five are considered to be "nuclear-weapon states" (NWS) under the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). They are the Unites States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, France and China. Nations that are known or believed to possess nuclear weapons are sometimes referred to as the nuclear club.

States that are not parties to NPT

Since the NPT entered into force in 1970, three states that were not parties to the Treaty have conducted nuclear tests, namely India, Pakistan, and North Korea. North Korea had been a party to the NPT but withdrew in 2003. Israel is also widely believed to have nuclear weapons, though it maintains a policy of deliberate ambiguity regarding this, and is not known definitively to have conducted a nuclear test.

Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC)

The Convention prohibits all development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons. It requires each State Party to destroy chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities it possesses, as well as any chemical weapons it may have abandoned on the territory of another State Party. The verification provisions of the CWC not only affect the military sector but also the civilian chemical industry, world-wide, through certain restrictions and obligations regarding the production, processing and consumption of chemicals that are considered relevant to the objectives of the Convention. The Convention also contains provisions on assistance in case a State Party is attacked or threatened with attack by chemical weapons and on promoting the trade in chemicals and related equipment among States Parties.

Almost all countries in the world have joined the Chemical Weapons Convention. Currently 188 of the 196 states recognized by the United Nations are party to the CWC. Six states have not signed the treaty (Angola, North Korea, Egypt, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria).

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>16 July 1945</td>
<td>U.S. exploded first atomic bomb, the Trinity test, at Alamogordo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 August 1945</td>
<td>Atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 October 1964</td>
<td>China exploded first nuclear bomb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 November 1969</td>
<td>President Richard Nixon announced a new policy on biological warfare for the United States. The United States pledged to never use biological weapons under any circumstance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>The Biological Weapons Convention was established. The treaty prohibited the research development and production of offensive biological weapons. The Soviet Union and the United States both ratified the treaty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1996</td>
<td>The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was created to prevent detrimental effects of WMD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 September 2001</td>
<td>September 11 attack were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks launched by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda upon the United States in New York City and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.</td>
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### Resolution Code Table

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<th>Resolution code</th>
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Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

**Formation of several committees**

Formation of several committees by the IAEA (The International Atomic Energy Agency) has reduced possibilities of proliferation of WMDs in the world to a large extent. The International Atomic Energy Agency is an international organization responsible for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. As far as the battle against WMDs is concerned, its role is of vital importance. Apart from promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, it prevents its use for military purposes and it sets nuclear safety standards. North Korea withdrew from the organization in 1994, after the Board of Governors found that it breached its safeguards agreement on nuclear security.

**United States and Russian Federation**

The two main stakeholders of WMD and chemical weapons have collaborated in order to eradicate proliferation of WMDs. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty is a ten-year bilateral agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, which limits the amounts of nuclear missile launchers that these two countries are allowed to possess. It entered into force in 2011 and it has a strict timetable concerning the action that the two major powers must take towards the direction of nuclear weapon reduction. These two States have become the epitome of peace and collaboration of many other Member States.

**General Assembly**

Resolutions passes in GA have also been successful in eliminating chances of WMD terrorism. Combating WMDs and terrorism is a topic area that has been discussed several times by the UN General Assembly. Ten Resolutions have been voted within the past nine years. However, the progress that has been made in order for this issue to be tackled is not analogous to that impressive number.
The provisions included in the aforementioned resolutions are similar. The General Assembly has repeatedly urged all Member States to enact national policies and work together at the same time in order to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs, as the achievement of this goal depends on their international cooperation and coordinated efforts to a very significant extent.

The GA has also stressed the importance of the role of relevant regional and international organizations, without which the coordination of Member State efforts would be impossible. Additionally, the Secretary General was asked to monitor national measures taken by the Member States and compile an annual report, in order for the Assembly to be fully informed about their progress at all times.

**Possible Solutions**

Although various measures have been taken in the past to eliminate proliferation of WMD and chemical weapons, it is still obvious that the international community needs to take more substantial measures in order to combat the threat of WMDs.

There is still a lack of a universal monitoring programme which can keep an eye on States’ trading and invention of arms. It is urgent to discover black market that may sell technologies and elements capable to create weapons of mass destruction. States and NGOs should try their best in order to eliminate informal sectors which trade WMDs. If this is achieved, it will be difficult for terrorists to achieve their goals. However, this elimination will certainly not be easy and will require a stricter legislation, stricter control to the nations that may help terrorists in any way but also international cooperation from each and every Member State.

Additionally, the creation of an international monitoring system that will eradicate nearly all WMD black markets and terrorist training camps disseminating WMD technology and information, the development of new detection equipment preventing terrorists from transporting WMDs, the implementation of the already-signed relevant Treaties, the enactment of stricter legislation and the creation of consequence management mechanisms are only some of the measures that must be taken into serious consideration.
Bibliography


