

POSITION PAPER

Committee: United Nations General Assembly – Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Country: State of Israel

Agenda: *The Invisible War: Shadows of Proxy Armies*

Sub-topic: *Dismantling State-Sponsored Terrorism, Narco-Crypto Financing, and Intelligence Operations Fueling Middle East Chaos*

I. Overview of the Issue

Modern conflicts in the Middle East increasingly extend beyond conventional battlefields. Armed groups operating through proxy structures, illicit financial networks, weapons trafficking, cyber-enabled fundraising, and covert logistical channels can sustain violence while making accountability more difficult. The State of Israel considers the protection of civilians, prevention of terrorism, and preservation of regional stability to be interconnected priorities.

The international community must therefore address not only the immediate threat posed by armed organizations, but also the financial, technological, logistical, and political systems that enable them to continue operating. Counter-terrorism measures should remain evidence-based, targeted, and consistent with international law while ensuring that legitimate humanitarian assistance reaches civilians without obstruction.

II. Position of the State of Israel

Israel supports stronger international cooperation against terrorist financing, illicit arms transfers, organized criminal networks, and the use of proxy organizations to conduct attacks while concealing responsibility.

The international community should strengthen financial traceability, improve intelligence-sharing, identify weapons-trafficking routes, and develop effective mechanisms for detecting the movement of funds and operational resources. Particular attention should be given to emerging methods of financing, including cryptocurrency and other digital financial channels where they are used to support violent organizations.

Israel further believes that states and non-state actors that knowingly facilitate attacks against civilians should be subject to appropriate diplomatic, legal, and financial measures through established international mechanisms. Such measures must remain targeted so that civilian populations are not collectively penalized for the actions of armed groups.

III. Key Areas for International Action

1. Disrupting illicit financing:

Member States should strengthen cooperation between financial-intelligence units, banks, customs authorities, and relevant international organizations to identify suspicious transfers, shell structures, cryptocurrency misuse, and other methods of terrorist financing.

2. Strengthening intelligence cooperation:

States should develop secure channels for the timely exchange of actionable information concerning terrorist networks, recruitment, arms trafficking, and cross-border movement, while maintaining appropriate safeguards for sensitive information.

3. Addressing proxy warfare:

The international community should improve mechanisms for documenting material, financial, logistical, and operational assistance provided to armed groups through intermediaries and external networks.

4. Improving border and arms controls:

Member States should strengthen customs systems, weapons tracing, and monitoring of dual-use goods to reduce the ability of terrorist and criminal networks to obtain operational resources.

5. Protecting humanitarian space:

Counter-terrorism policies must include safeguards that allow humanitarian organizations to operate independently and deliver assistance safely. Preventing diversion of aid should not result in legitimate humanitarian activity being treated as criminal conduct.

6. Combating cyber-enabled recruitment and financing:

Governments, financial institutions, technology companies, and law-enforcement agencies should cooperate against credible terrorist recruitment, fundraising, and operational activity conducted through digital platforms while respecting due process and lawful expression.

7. Building regional resilience:

International assistance should strengthen institutions, education, employment opportunities, and community resilience so that vulnerable populations are less susceptible to recruitment by terrorist organizations and criminal networks.

IV. Proposed Multilateral Framework

Israel proposes the establishment of an **International Mechanism for Tracking Terrorist Financing and Proxy Support (IMTTPS)** within an appropriate United Nations framework.

The proposed mechanism would encourage secure information-sharing between Member States, financial institutions, customs authorities, cybersecurity experts, and relevant international organizations. It would support the identification of high-risk financial and logistical patterns, facilitate technical assistance for states with limited capacity, and encourage common standards for tracing illicit financial flows.

Its effectiveness should be evaluated through measurable indicators, including the number of disrupted financing channels, improvements in tracing illicit transfers, identification of trafficking routes, and the speed of international coordination during cross-border security incidents.

Participation should respect national sovereignty, domestic law, international obligations, and established United Nations mechanisms.

V. Conclusion

The invisible dimensions of modern conflict cannot be addressed through conventional security measures alone. Financial networks, proxy structures, illicit trafficking, intelligence operations, and digital infrastructure can allow violence to persist even when conventional fighting decreases.

The State of Israel therefore calls upon Member States to pursue a coordinated, targeted, and accountable international response. Such an approach must prevent terrorism, disrupt the systems that sustain violent organizations, protect civilians, preserve humanitarian access, and strengthen regional stability.

A durable solution requires international cooperation that addresses the networks enabling violence while safeguarding legitimate civilian activity and maintaining respect for international law.