

# THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM: IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Brussels, Belgium  
27-28 June 2019

## AGENDA

*Terrorism and counter-terrorism remain a major concern today for many different actors. In a changing and increasingly complex landscape, it can be difficult to keep up with new measures and approaches for how States and other actors respond to terrorism. Recent domestic case law and legislation as well as the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2462 have renewed attention to the risk of undermining humanitarian action, including through criminalization of humanitarian activities. This workshop considers these developments and provides an analysis of the relevant legal frameworks. The workshop also features in-depth discussion of specific domestic, EU, and UN measures intended to address the threat of terrorism, the use of force as a response to terrorism, tensions that arise under international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL), and an assessment of the implications for humanitarian action. It also aims at strengthening the capacity of practitioners to take into account IHRL and IHL when addressing the impact of terrorism and counterterrorism measures on their work. Led by expert academics and practitioners, this workshop tailors discussion to challenges faced by those working in humanitarian contexts.*

## THURSDAY, 27 JUNE

8:30 - 9:00	Welcome coffee & registration
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Welcome, introduction, and overview of the Thematic Workshop</b>
9:30 – 10:30	<b>Key issues for humanitarian actors and evolution of the debate</b>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 - 12:00	<b>An overview of the international legal frameworks related to terrorism and counterterrorism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Defining “terrorism”</li><li>▪ Criminalization of terrorism and terrorism-related offences under domestic law</li><li>▪ Clarifying the regulation of counterterrorism under international law (including references to UN, EU law, inter-governmental frameworks)</li><li>▪ Understand how IHL and IHRL address terrorism and counterterrorism</li></ul>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 14:00	<b>The status and position of armed groups under IHL of non-international armed conflict: addressing the State’s terrorist “label”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The implications of the lack of combatant immunity in NIAC</li><li>▪ The logic of IHL applicable to parties to the conflict</li><li>▪ Lawful acts of war and acts not prohibited by IHL vs. domestic law</li></ul>
14:00 – 15:00	<b>The role of the UNSC in countering terrorism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ UN Security Council Resolutions 1373, 1267, and 2178, 2253</li></ul>

15:00 – 15:15

- Sanctions
- International counterterrorism bodies
- Effect on domestic CT legislation

Coffee break

**15:15 – 16:00**

**Terrorism and international refugee law**

**16:00 – 17:15**

**Group work**

**17:15 – 17:30**

**Wrap-up of the day/Q&A**

19:30

Group dinner

## FRIDAY, 28 JUNE

8:30 – 9:00

Welcome coffee

**9:00 – 9:30**

**Review of previous day**

**9:30 – 10:30**

**Counterterrorism legislation and impartial humanitarian action:  
Perspectives from IHL and IHRL**

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee break

**10:45 – 12:00**

**The impact of counterterrorism measures on the financing of  
humanitarian action**

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch

**13:00 – 14:00**

**Trends regarding the role of civil society in conflict prevention,  
security, and countering violent extremism**

**14:00 – 15:15**

**NGO risk management approaches**

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee break

**15:30 – 17:00**

**Exercise**

**17:00 – 17:30**

**Closing discussion**