

**COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA WITH INTERNATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN COMBATING  
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

<b>Abstract:</b>	<p><i>After the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, terrorism has been perceived as a paramount threat to security at all levels of international functionality – local, national, regional, interregional, and global. Terrorism can be referred to as a peril, a real and long-lasting threat of significant proportions. Currently, it is one of the major factors that affect global development and shapes the socio-political agenda at all levels, from national to international.</i></p> <p><i>The Republic of Moldova is in solidarity with the activities of both state and non-state actors aimed at countering terrorism. While the capacities of the Republic of Moldova are relatively limited, it takes a firm stance against terrorism and has always expressed readiness to align with international efforts.</i></p> <p><i>The Republic of Moldova considers the consolidation of international efforts necessary, convinced that only through the cooperation of all anti-terrorist forces can this scourge be suppressed.</i></p> <p><i>Currently, the attention of international actors is focused on identifying solutions to the armed conflict in Ukraine and preventing other outbreaks of conflict. International terrorism seems to have been relegated to a lower priority, but this does not preclude the need for the prevention of potential terrorist actions. In this context, international cooperation in the field of counterterrorism is indispensable and timely.</i></p> <p><i>The article will highlight the particularities of the international cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with international governmental organizations in the field of combating and preventing international terrorism.</i></p>
<b>Keywords:</b>	<b>International terrorism; international cooperation; fight against terrorism; prevention of terrorism; international organizations; the anti-terrorism Center; the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova</b>
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### **Introduction**

International terrorism is becoming the most common means of resolving conflicts in different regions of the planet. For the past two decades, the fight against terrorism has been at the forefront of the global geopolitical order. The period after the attacks of September 11, 2001, was marked by an unprecedented level of cooperation between states in the field of security, resulting in sometimes contradictory conditions – from the implementation of the reference to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty<sup>84</sup>, which led to the invasion of Afghanistan, until the unanimous adoption of Resolution no. 1373

<sup>84</sup> Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_17120.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_17120.htm), (10.10.2022)

(2001)<sup>85</sup> under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which introduced new requirements for the fight against terrorism in each country.

“Combating terrorism” is still a vague legal term, but one that has become a unifying force among states bound by the understanding that no country is immune to the scourge of “terrorism” and that terrorism is not defined by any race, religion, or culture. This unanimous support is best exemplified by the numerous counter-terrorism resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly over the past twenty-two years.

### **Theoretical considerations on international cooperation of States in the fight against terrorism**

To date, the international cooperation of states to combat terrorism has received a new impetus for development, due to the difficult international political situation in the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. Depending on the geographical scope, in particular the circle of participants who are involved in the fight against terrorism, this activity is carried out at the domestic and international (general), regional (subregional), and bilateral levels. The system of the international fight against terrorism operates on the basis of: the unconditional condemnation as criminal of all terrorist activities, methods and practices, as well as the fact that they have no justification, wherever and by whomever they are committed; the inadmissibility of justifying acts of terrorism, regardless of the arguments of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that guide the people who commit them; the uncompromising fight against international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; strengthening international cooperation between states, international organizations to prevent, stop and eliminate all forms of international terrorism; ensuring, in accordance with the provisions of international treaties and domestic law, the detention and prosecution or extradition of persons who have committed or contribute to the commission of acts of terrorism; not granting asylum to persons who engage in or contribute to terrorist activities; non-participation of states in organizing, inciting, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in another state or facilitating organizational activities aimed at committing such acts on its territory<sup>86</sup>.

The international fight against terrorism includes cooperation for the exchange of relevant information on the prevention and fight against terrorism; making joint efforts to prevent and stop terrorist acts; preventing and ending the use of the country’s territory for the preparation of any acts of terrorism; obstructing the financing activities of terrorists and terrorist organizations; expanding cooperation in the field of combating international terrorism by concluding special international treaties and their rapid implementation; aligning domestic legislation with international treaties in the field of combating international terrorism; providing mutual comprehensive assistance about criminal investigations or the prosecution of a terrorist act; preventing the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups across state borders<sup>87</sup>.

Recognizing the fundamental character of the UN conventions on combating terrorism, states began to create certain conditions and mechanisms to ensure them. These include the adoption of relevant national legislation (criminal, fiscal, administrative, banking, etc.), the formation of harmonized standards, the preparation of relevant agreements at the regional level with the participation of other international organizations (in particular, the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism), the creation of bilateral working groups for combating terrorism, organizing cooperation between states with specialized institutions (in particular, interaction with Interpol, FATF, the European Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, etc.).

However, despite the intensification of international cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, an agreed and unified legal regime for combating terrorism has not been developed, there is no

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<sup>85</sup> Resolution 1373 (2001) adopted by the Security Council at its 4385th meeting, on 28 September 2001, <https://digitalibrary.un.org/record/449020?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>, (10.10.2022)

<sup>86</sup> Lyudmila Novoskoltseva, *Rol mezhdunarodnykh organizatsiy v predotvraschenii i protivodeystvii mezhdunarodnomu terrorizmu*, in ”Acta Scientifica Academiae Ostroviensis. Sectio A, Nauki Humanistyczne, Spoleczne i Techniczne”, No. 5 (1), p.118, [http://zn.wsbip.edu.pl/sectioa/images/aktualnosci/zeszyty/005-2015/116-132\(1\).pdf](http://zn.wsbip.edu.pl/sectioa/images/aktualnosci/zeszyty/005-2015/116-132(1).pdf), (12.07.2022)

<sup>87</sup> Vladimir Antipenko, *Borba s sovremennym terrorizmom: mezhdunarodno-pravovyye podhodyi: monografiya*, Yunona-M, Kiev, 2002, p. 303

generally accepted definition of terrorism, and no comprehensive international treaty on combating terrorism has been adopted. Most countries in the fight against terrorism rely on the 19 international legal instruments developed under the auspices of the United Nations after the events of September 11, 2001<sup>88</sup>.

### **The main directions of collaboration of the Republic of Moldova in the field of combating terrorism**

The Republic of Moldova actively supports the anti-terrorist actions undertaken by the world community, the state contributed to the formation and strengthening of the international anti-terrorist coalition, which was created by the United States immediately after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The Republic of Moldova conducts a balanced foreign policy, firmly and consistently supporting the primacy of international law and the central role of the UN in solving major world problems.

The main fight against terrorism should be conducted at the national-state level. The task of international law is primarily to coordinate the anti-terrorist policy of states and to form a universal systemic approach in this field. In the Republic of Moldova, to ensure and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens, a national system to combat terrorism operates, whose legal basis is the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, principles and norms generally recognized by international law and the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova. The international legal framework of the cooperation of the Republic of Moldova in the field of combating terrorism consists of a) universally recognized principles and norms of international law, agreements concluded between states: universal conventions, regional agreements, bilateral treaties regarding legal assistance in criminal matters, international treaties of the Republic of Moldova; b) documents of international organizations (UN conventions, UN Security Council resolutions, Council of Europe conventions, etc.), as well as national legislation<sup>89</sup>.

Cooperation in the field of combating terrorism represents a set of principles and norms that regulate the activity of state bodies in international cooperation regarding the fight against terrorism. According to article 48 of Law No. 120 of 21.09.2017<sup>90</sup> regarding the prevention and combating of terrorism, the Republic of Moldova, according to the international treaties to which it is a party, cooperates with the law enforcement bodies and special services of other states, as well as with international organizations active in this field. To ensure the security of the individual, the society, and the state, the Republic of Moldova pursues on its territory the persons involved in terrorist activities, including in cases where these activities were planned or carried out outside its territory, but caused damage, also in other cases provided by the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party<sup>91</sup>.

The main direction of cooperation at the universal level is the adoption and ratification of conventions aimed at combating terrorism, as well as the subsequent implementation of the norms of these conventions in national legislation. The legal-normative basis for combating terrorism in the Republic of Moldova, along with the national legislation, is made up of international acts signed and ratified by the Republic of Moldova that have as their subject the fight against terrorism and organized crime: the Convention on offenses and certain other acts committed on board aircraft (6.03.1996), the Convention on the criminalization of aircraft hijacking (6.03.1996), the Convention on the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection (6.03.1996), the Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes committed against internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents (16.07.1997), the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (18.07.2002), the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (18.07.2002), the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (18.07.2002), the United Nations Convention

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<sup>88</sup> *United Nations International legal instrument*, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/international-legal-instruments>, (10.10.2022)

<sup>89</sup> Cristina Ejoval, *Counter-Terrorism Capacity of the Republic of Moldova*, in "Analele Universității din Oradea. Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene", Editura Universității din Oradea, No. XI, 2019, p 182

<sup>90</sup> *Law on the prevention and combating of terrorism 20.10.2017*, Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova No. 364-370, <http://lex.justice.md/md/371961/>, (10.10.2022)

<sup>91</sup> *Idem*

against Transnational Organized Crime (16.09.2005), The International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (28.02.2006), the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (18.04.2008), the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (04.05.1998). The Republic of Moldova also signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (16.05.2005), as well as the Treaty on Cooperation among the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Terrorism (27.07.2001) and the formation of the Anti-Terrorist Center (ATC) of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed by the presidents of these states on December 1, 2000<sup>92</sup>.

Each of the conventions in force in the Republic of Moldova, which contains provisions requiring the inclusion of relevant crimes in the national legislation, is reflected in certain articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova. International law helps states coordinate their efforts in the fight against terrorism both within the state and in the international arena. The gap between international legal norms and the practical actions of states hurts the fight against terrorism. International norms are needed to unify legislation so that, in the event of a threat of a terrorist attack, it is possible to minimize the damage. The development of common strategies to combat terrorism is particularly important in the implementation of preventive measures. The link between terrorism and transnational crime blurs state borders, which greatly complicates the identification of a terrorist threat.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova signed a series of bilateral agreements on cooperation in the fields of combating terrorism, money laundering, terrorist financing, illicit drug trafficking and combating organized criminal activities, with the following countries: the Republic of Hungary (1997); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2001); Romania (2000); Republic of Ukraine (1999, 2005); Republic of Uzbekistan (2000); Republic of Turkey (1994, 2007); Republic of Belarus (1993, 2002, 2006), Republic of Bulgaria (1993, 2004); Czech Republic (2003); Republic of Poland (2003, 2009); Republic of Latvia (2003, 2009); Republic of Estonia (2005); Republic of Georgia (2007); Republic of Croatia (2006, 2007); Kingdom of Belgium (2007); Republic of Indonesia (2008); Kingdom of the Netherlands (2008); Republic of Albania (2006); Republic of Slovenia (2008); Republic of Austria (2010); Republic of San Marino (2010); Republic of South Africa (2010); Republic of Serbia (2010); State of Israel (2010); French Republic (2010); Principality of Monaco (2010); Montenegro (2010); Bahamas (2010); Republic of Armenia (2011); Republic of Kazakhstan (2011); Federal Republic of Nigeria (2011); Republic of Portugal (2011); British Virgin Islands (2011); Republic of Mongolia (2011); Aruba (2011); Republic of Finland (2011); Bosnia and Herzegovina (2012); United Mexican States (2012); Republic of Azerbaijan (2013); Kingdom of Spain (2013); Republic of Turkmenistan (2015)<sup>93</sup>.

The Republic of Moldova cooperates closely with the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the EU, NATO, the CIS, and GUAM in the field of developing democratic reforms, ensuring the rule of law and the conformity of national legislation and practice in the field of human rights with relevant international standards, as well as in the fight against terrorism. The bodies responsible for combating and preventing terrorism prepare and present to external partners the national reports on the measures taken in the field of preventing and combating terrorism.

### **Cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with the UN in the field of combating terrorism**

The key international platform for developing coordinated actions by the international community in countering terrorism is the United Nations Organization. To develop counter-terrorism measures, the UN uses the most diverse forms of international cooperation. Moldova is working to confirm the central, coordinating role of the UN in international cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, the constant implementation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council, and the provisions of universal conventions in this field, for the effective implementation of the Global Strategy to counter terrorism

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<sup>92</sup> Cristina Ejova, *Counter-Terrorism Capacity of the Republic of Moldova*, in "Analele Universității din Oradea. Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene", Editura Universității din Oradea, No. 11, 2019, p 183

<sup>93</sup> *Verbal Note of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the OSCE*, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/1/452725.pdf>, (10.10.2022)

adopted by the General Assembly of the UN in September 2006<sup>94</sup>. The Republic of Moldova supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) developed under the auspices of the UN, which was adopted by consensus at the 60th session of the UN General Assembly<sup>95</sup>.

The Republic of Moldova supported the decision of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to create a High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change (unofficially called the “Wise Group”<sup>96</sup>), which was supposed to develop recommendations on the mechanisms and tools for collectively countering modern global challenges and threats. The Republic of Moldova supported the unanimous adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 1535 (March 2004) on the reform of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council (CTC)<sup>97</sup> to increase its organizational and expert potential, the effectiveness of the activity aimed at joint practical work of states in the fight against international terrorism.

In the area of combating terrorism, to implement the provisions of the UN Global Strategy against Terrorism, in 2017 the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism<sup>98</sup> was adopted.

Supporting all the existing directions of international legal consolidation of anti-terrorist cooperation, Moldova insists on coordinating the projects of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as soon as possible in the UN. Currently, it has not yet been possible to overcome the existing differences in the world regarding the very definition of terrorism, to clearly distinguish terrorism from the struggle for self-determination, analyze the expediency of extending the availability of these documents to the special services and armed forces of states and the legality of possessing nuclear weapons.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations in 2019 presented to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs a Report of the national contribution<sup>99</sup> presented by the Republic of Moldova to the Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism. The report states that considering the provisions of the Declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism and sharing the common commitment to eliminate international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the Republic of Moldova concluded multiple bilateral and multilateral treaties and improved its national legislation to fulfill the objectives of the above-mentioned Declaration.

The Republic of Moldova has concluded 43 bilateral treaties on key issues such as cooperation in the exchange of information on money laundering and terrorist financing and cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Moreover, the Republic of Moldova is a party to 18 multilateral agreements that have the same objective (for example, the European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism from 1977, the Council of Europe Convention for the Prevention of Terrorism from 2005, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism from 2005, etc.)<sup>100</sup>.

Also, the lists of persons, groups, and entities involved in terrorist activities are constantly updated by the Resolutions of the UN Security Council. The SIS ensures the presentation to external partners (UN, Council of Europe Committee on Counterterrorism (CDCT), GUAM) of the national reports on the measures undertaken in the field of preventing and combating terrorism. The exchange of information with the partner special services was ensured on subjects of common interest related to regional security,

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<sup>94</sup> *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/504/88/PDF/N0550488.pdf?OpenElement>, (10.10.2022)

<sup>95</sup> *Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its 60th session*, <https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/60>, (10.10.2022)

<sup>96</sup> *Note by the Secretary-General*, [https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/gaA.59.565\\_En.pdf](https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/gaA.59.565_En.pdf), (10.10.2022)

<sup>97</sup> *Resolution 1535 (2004) Adopted by the Security Council at its 4936th meeting, on 26 March 2004*, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/518306>, (24.07.2022)

<sup>98</sup> *Law on the prevention and combating of terrorism 20.10.2017*, Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, No. 364-370, <http://lex.justice.md/md/371961/>, (10.10.2022)

<sup>99</sup> *Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations No. USA-ONU//332.6/ 472/2019*, [https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/74/int\\_terrorism/moldova\\_e.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/74/int_terrorism/moldova_e.pdf), (24.07.2022)

<sup>100</sup> *Moldova-Measures to eliminate terrorism*, [https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/74/int\\_terrorism/moldova\\_e.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/74/int_terrorism/moldova_e.pdf), (24.07.2022)

as well as on the segment of countering terrorist risks. Periodically, in the format of information exchange, summaries, and data of common interest regarding the risks and threats identified in the field of preventing and combating terrorism are sent to special partner services. Thus, the transit of Moldovan territory by foreign terrorist fighters, the radicalization of extremist currents in the Republic of Moldova, the participation of citizens of the Republic of Moldova in military activities in international conflict zones, as well as the commission of terrorist attacks on the territory of Moldova were among the risks identified by the SIS to national security<sup>101</sup>.

The main element in the complex measures of our state in the fight against international terrorism is the suppression of its financing channels. To implement international obligations and the provisions of internal documents, the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova was adjusted by international standards. The main one in this regard was the adoption on December 22, 2017, of the Law “On the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism”<sup>102</sup>, which included eight special recommendations on combating the financing of terrorism made by the International Financial Action Task Force against money laundering (FATF). The legislative changes and the practical measures taken were duly assessed by the MONEYVAL Committee of the Council of Europe.

On 17.07.2019, the Moneyval Committee adopted the evaluation report of the Republic of Moldova. To implement the recommendations, the Office for Prevention and Fight against Money Laundering proposed the creation of a working group responsible for the development of the National Strategy for the Prevention of and combating money laundering and the Financing of Terrorism for the years 2020-2024 by these recommendations. At the same time, the working group is to carry out the national assessment of risks in the field, as well as the monitoring of the fulfillment of the commitments made towards external development partners<sup>103</sup>.

In May 2022, the MONEYVAL Committee already positively assessed the measures taken by the national authorities to comply with the national system for preventing and combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism with the provisions of the Recommendations of the International Financial Action Task Force. Accordingly, according to the Progress Report, published on the website of the MONEYVAL Committee, on the recommendations concerning “Identification of Clients”, “Politically Exposed Persons”, “High-Risk Countries” and “Non-Bank Financial Institutions”, the rating was increased from “partly compliant” to “largely compliant”. At the same time, due to the lack of a legal regulatory and authorization framework in the field of virtual assets, the recommendation that refers to “New technologies” was downgraded, being assigned the qualification of “non-compliant”. In this context, the Republic of Moldova has to present, within 1 year (until May 2023), the report on the progress made by the national authorities to consolidate at the national level an effective system for preventing and combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism<sup>104</sup>.

The existing achievements in the field of combating the financing of terrorism in the Republic of Moldova, as well as the creation of appropriate national mechanisms and procedures for this purpose, have allowed our state to reach a higher level of international cooperation, primarily in terms of increasing the effectiveness of combating the financing of terrorism.

Within the framework of the UN, since 2017, the Office of Counterterrorism has been operating under the leadership of the UN Under-Secretary-General, Russian diplomat Vladimir Voronkov. On 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, the United Nations Office of Counterterrorism and the Republic of Moldova signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism. This cooperation will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions

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<sup>101</sup> *Report on the implementation of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the RM – EU Association Agreement in the years 2017-2019*, [https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/raport\\_pna\\_aa\\_2017-2019\\_final\\_pentru\\_publicare\\_website.pdf](https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/raport_pna_aa_2017-2019_final_pentru_publicare_website.pdf), (24.07.2022)

<sup>102</sup> *Law on prevention and combating money laundering and terrorism financing*. 22.12.2017, Official Gazette, No. 58-66 art. 133 [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=110418&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110418&lang=ro), (24.07.2022)

<sup>103</sup> *Country update-Moldova: AML*, <https://gladei.md/docs/Moldova%20AML%2001.21.pdf>, (24.07.2022)

<sup>104</sup> *Anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures Moldova 1st Enhanced Follow-up Report May 2022*, <https://rm.coe.int/fur-moldova-1st/1680a6d980>, (10.08.2022)

2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019), which call upon all Member States to collect travel information, both Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data<sup>105</sup>.

At the current stage, the great importance of the Republic of Moldova plays the cooperation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Office with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova. Between 4-8 July 2022, employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and central security authorities participated in training sessions for the implementation of the new Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) system, organized by the UN Counter-Terrorism Office, through the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTT). The training was organized by the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019)<sup>106</sup>, of the Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization regarding civil aviation from 1944, as well as the National Strategy for the integrated management of the state border for the period 2018-2023, especially in the context of obtaining the status of a candidate country for EU accession, the Republic of Moldova must implement an API system. The UN Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) Programme currently supports 51 countries, including the Republic of Moldova, in collecting and using API and PNR data to prevent and counter terrorist threats by improving the use of databases of international data, such as INTERPOL databases and improving information exchange, by UN Security Council resolutions, ICAO standards, as well as relevant privacy laws, while ensuring the promotion of human rights<sup>107</sup>.

The UN Charter does not restrict states to conclude regional agreements, to create bodies to solve the problem of the fight against terrorism, if such agreements and bodies are compatible with the goals and principles of the UN. It should be noted that the Security Council must be kept fully informed at all times of actions taken or contemplated by regional agreements or by regional bodies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

### **The Republic of Moldova and the European Union cooperate in preventing and countering terrorism**

The priority in the field of international cooperation of the Republic of Moldova around combating terrorism is assigned to cooperation with the EU. With the help of the EU, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova implements a series of external assistance projects through the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)<sup>108</sup>, based on a Working Arrangement, signed in August 2008. Thus, during the years 2009-2013, the Republic of Moldova received financial investments from the EU in the amount of 22 million euros for the installation of a high-performance communication and monitoring system at the border. Also, in the field of combating terrorism, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police undertakes additional measures at crowded state border crossing points. The number of personnel has been increased, and certain loads and goods, as well as personal luggage, are checked, including with the help of dogs. An intensive anti-terrorist training of employees is carried out, with the involvement of specialists from other subdivisions and force structures. In June 2018, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, in collaboration with the special services of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, participated in the anti-terrorist exercise “Bucovina – 2018”. The operation took place in the border town of Lipcani, Briceni district. The purpose of the tactical operation, organized at the regional

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<sup>105</sup> *Press release. Moldova Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with UNOCT to Strengthen Co-operation in Preventing and Countering Terrorism*, [https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/221117\\_mou\\_signing\\_ceremony\\_moldova.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/221117_mou_signing_ceremony_moldova.pdf), (10.12.2022)

<sup>106</sup> What is the Countering Terrorist Travel (CTT) programme? <https://www.un.org/cttravel/faq>, (10.08.2022)

<sup>107</sup> *Premieră națională în domeniul securității aeronautice și prevenirii terorismului*, <https://www.mai.gov.md/ro/news/premiera-nationala-domeniul-securitatii-aeronautice-si-prevenirii-terorismului> (24.07.2022)

<sup>108</sup> *Securizarea frontierelor Moldovei cu sprijinul UE*, <http://www.infoeuropa.md/interviuri/securizarea-frontierelor-moldovei-cu-sprajinul-ue> (10.09.2018).

level, was to test, evaluate and improve procedures and mechanisms for interaction and interoperability between authorities in terrorist crises<sup>109</sup>.

With the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the security paradigm on the European continent changed, and the border of the Republic of Moldova became the safety belt, which stops the expansion of cross-border dangers towards the EU space. In this context, it was necessary to include the Republic of Moldova in a single European response mechanism to the consequences generated by the war, thus creating a unique security space. On March 17, 2022, the Agreement was signed between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, regarding the activities carried out by the FRONTEX Agency in the Republic of Moldova. On June 16, 2022, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova ratified the Agreement. FRONTEX (The European Border and Coast Guard Agency) will deploy experts to provide the necessary support to the Border Police in managing the regional crisis, the major flow of migrants and refugees at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, but also the growing risk of arms and drug smuggling as a result of the state of war in the neighboring country<sup>110</sup>.

An important role in securing the border of the Republic of Moldova is also played by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – EUBAM. Through this mission, the EU plays a decisive role in ensuring efficient and transparent control of the state border, which contributes to strengthening regional security. Europol, as the European agency for fighting crime, will also establish missions in the Republic of Moldova<sup>111</sup>.

In July 2022, the EU launched the Support Center for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova (EU Support Hub) which will develop cooperation between the EU, its agencies, Member States, and Moldovan authorities. The EU Support Hub will have the following objectives:

- to coordinate the support that the EU and its Member States give to Moldova to strengthen law enforcement and border management;

- to make available to the Moldovan authorities a “one-stop shop” providing the comprehensive set of support measures that the EU and its member states offer to Moldova in terms of internal security and border management;

- to support existing internal security and border management mechanisms, in particular the support that Europol provides in terms of information exchange, analysis, and operational cooperation, and that FRONTEX and the EUBAM Mission provide in terms of border management, in particular about the detection of firearms trafficking and the fight against human trafficking, as well as operational support through the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT); to identify the needs of the Moldovan authorities in terms of capacity building for law enforcement and border management, supporting the programming of EU funding instruments”<sup>112</sup>.

This launch is important for ensuring the national security of the Republic of Moldova, with an impact at least in the nearby vicinity. After the launch of the Hub, its operation is in the process of adopting practices to the set objectives.

### **The Republic of Moldova and NATO cooperation in combating the international terrorism**

In the context of international cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with international governmental organizations in combating international terrorism, the great importance plays the Individual Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova – NATO Partnership for the years 2021-2023

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<sup>109</sup> Cristina Ejova, *Counter-Terrorism Capacity of the Republic of Moldova*, in ”Analele Universității din Oradea. Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene”, Editura Universității din Oradea, No. XI, 2019, p. 187

<sup>110</sup> *Acordul cu UE privind FRONTEX, ratificat de Parlament*, [https://www.ipn.md/ro/acordul-cu-ue-privind-frontex-ratificat-de-parlament-7967\\_1090495.html](https://www.ipn.md/ro/acordul-cu-ue-privind-frontex-ratificat-de-parlament-7967_1090495.html), (10.09.2018)

<sup>111</sup> *Frontex, agenția europeană pentru poliția de frontieră și garda de coastă va trimite agenți la granițele Republicii Moldova 17.03.2022*, <https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/externe/frontex-agenția-europeană-pentru-poliția-de-frontiera-si-garda-de-coasta-va-trimite-agenti-la-granițele-republicii-moldova-1875441>, (10.09.2018)

<sup>112</sup> *Informal Home Affairs Council: EU launches the Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova*, [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news/informal-home-affairs-council-eu-launches-support-hub-internal-security-and-border-management-2022-07-11\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news/informal-home-affairs-council-eu-launches-support-hub-internal-security-and-border-management-2022-07-11_en), (10.09.2018)



(IPAP)<sup>113</sup>. IPAP outlines cooperation objectives in several areas of strategic importance, such as cooperation with European and Euro-Atlantic structures and institutions, democratic reforms, human rights, the rule of law, fighting corruption, territorial integrity and relations with neighbors; reform of the security and defense sector, democratic control of the armed forces, combating terrorism, ensuring cyber defense, sustainable economic development, and energy security. The document also provides for the modernization of the National Army by the new developments and requirements of the current security environment, to face the new challenges, including the accelerated reform of the Border Police and the Carabinieri Troops.

In the Plan, it is mentioned that the Republic of Moldova is determined to develop cooperation with NATO member states and partners in combating new common threats to security such as terrorism, and cyber threats, which no longer recognize national borders and have an increasingly varied and complex character and contribute to the promotion of stability and security. The following aspects are stipulated in point 1.6:

-“Developing cooperation with NATO in the field of preventing and combating terrorism and related phenomena;

-Consolidation of cooperation and coordination of actions between the public institutions of the state, with regional and international organizations in the field of preventing and combating terrorism;

-Cooperation with the mass media and civil society to promote the security culture and raise awareness of public opinion regarding the risks and threats of a terrorist nature;

-Development of cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of preventing and combating terrorism: UN, OSCE, NATO, GUAM, and Council of Europe. Adoption of good practices in the field of protection against terrorism of infrastructure objects of strategic importance, including those that permanently present technological and environmental risks”<sup>114</sup>.

### **The Republic of Moldova and the OSCE cooperation in the field of combating and preventing terrorism**

As mentioned above, the Republic of Moldova actively cooperates with the OSCE in the field of combating and preventing terrorism. In late 2019, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights conducted a legal review of the 2003 Law on Countering Extremist Activity<sup>115</sup>.

At the current stage, the Anti-Terrorism Center cooperates with the Action Against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department. In 2011, the international conference dedicated to the analysis of strategies and policies to prevent the financing of terrorism, organized by the OSCE, took place in Chisinau. On September 14-15, 2020, the ATC representative participated in the international conference held by the OSCE, with the title “Effective partnership in countering terrorism, violent extremism and the radicalization that causes terrorism”<sup>116</sup>. The objective of the conference was the exchange of experience and best practices of the participating entities, as well as the promotion of new methods and procedures for strengthening the partnership at the counter-terrorism level. Experts in the field highlighted the idea that only by strengthening cooperation relations, both at the interstate level and in the public-private sector, ensuring respect for human rights and freedoms, can the mission of preventing extremist-terrorist manifestations in society be successfully fulfilled<sup>117</sup>.

### **The Republic of Moldova and the Council of Europe cooperate in preventing and countering terrorism**

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<sup>113</sup> *Planului Individual de Acțiuni al Parteneriatului Republica Moldova – NATO pentru anii 2021-2023*, [https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/905\\_1.pdf](https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/905_1.pdf), (10.08.2022)

<sup>114</sup> *Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) Republica Moldova - NATO for 2021-2023*, [https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/905\\_1.pdf](https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/905_1.pdf), (10.08.2022)

<sup>115</sup> *Opinion on the Law on Countering Extremist Activity of the Republic of Moldova*, [https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/e/446197\\_0.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/e/446197_0.pdf) (10.08.2022)

<sup>116</sup> *Parteneriat eficient în contracararea terorismului, extremismului violent și radicalizarea ce determină terorismul*, <https://antiteror.sis.md/content/parteneriat-eficient-contracararea-terorismului-extremismului-violent-si-radicalizarea-ce>, (10.08.2022)

<sup>117</sup> *Idem*

Within the Council of Europe, a significant number of international legal documents have been developed and adopted in the field of combating such a socially dangerous crime as terrorism. The Republic of Moldova is a party to all the fundamental conventions of the Council of Europe in the field of combating terrorism. The ratification of the documents presented by the Republic of Moldova is its duty to the world community in the field of combating the threat of terrorism, which no state is assured of, as today there are no analogs to these Conventions, as well as the prevention of terrorism, which requires joint efforts throughout the world. It should also be noted that the Council of Europe is making efforts to support the Republic of Moldova for it to comply with the Organization's standards and the rule of law through a series of mechanisms that monitor the evolution of the Republic of Moldova under these aspects.

### **The Republic of Moldova in the context of interaction of CIS countries in combating international terrorism**

The regional organization Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is also included in the fight against international terrorism. Within the CIS, a series of positive results can be observed in the fight against international terrorism and other threats to the security of the member states of the Commonwealth. A positive result of the cooperation of the CIS countries is the drafting and signing on June 4, 1999, of the Agreement on Cooperation of the CIS participant states in the fight against terrorism<sup>118</sup>, in which the CIS states declared their willingness to cooperate rigorously in the field of countering terrorist threats; the decision to found an Anti-Terrorism Center of the CIS member states (on December 1, 2000)<sup>119</sup>; The concept of collaboration of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States in combating terrorism and other violent forms of extremism (2005)<sup>120</sup>, in which it is indicated that contemporary terrorism and extremism directly threaten the interests of the CIS member states and the world community; The concept of anti-terrorism activity for railway transport of the CIS member states from May 31, 2013<sup>121</sup>.

On October 7, 2002, the Regulation regarding the order of organization and implementation of common anti-terrorist measures on the territory of the CIS member states was signed in Chisinau<sup>122</sup>. The regulation provides for the implementation of anti-terrorist measures to suppress terrorist activity, including the release of hostages held by terrorists; neutralization of high explosive devices or other technically complicated destruction devices; the release of objects occupied by terrorists that present a high ecological and technological danger, nuclear industry, transport, energy, chemical production and other objects (buildings and rooms of diplomatic representations, etc.); apprehension of terrorists, liquidation of terrorist groups and formations.

Law enforcement agencies from the Republic of Moldova cooperate with law enforcement agencies from foreign countries – members of the International Criminal Police Organization – Interpol. As part of this cooperation, information on terrorists is exchanged, and assistance is provided in the

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<sup>118</sup> *Agreement on Cooperation of the CIS participant states in the fight against terrorism*, (Minsk, June 4, 1999), <https://www.cisatc.org/1289/135/152/275>, (10.08.2022)

<sup>119</sup> *Reshenie «O Sozdanii Antiterroristicheskogo Centra Gosudarstv – Uchastnikov Sodruzhestva Nezavisimyh Gosudarstv» (ot 21 iyunya 2000 goda)*, (10.08.2022); <https://www.eng.cisatc.org/1289/9115/135/9126/9127/9143>, (10.08.2022)

<sup>120</sup> *Koncepciya sotrudnichestva gosudarstv – uchastnikov SNG v bor'be s terrorizmom i inymi nasil'stvennymi proyavleniyami ekstremizma. Utverzhdena Resheniem Soveta glav gosudarstv Sodruzhestva Nezavisimyh Gosudarstv ot 26 avgusta 2005 goda*, <https://www.cisatc.org/276>, (10.08.2022)

<sup>121</sup> *Koncepciya Antiterroristicheskoy deyatelnosti na zheleznodorozhnom transporte gosudarstv – Uchastnikov SNG*, <https://www.cisatc.org/302>, (10.08.2022)

<sup>122</sup> *Protokol ob utverzhenii Polozheniya o poryadke organizacii i provedeniya sovmestnyh antiterroristicheskikh meropriyatij na territoriyah gosudarstv - uchastnikov Sodruzhestva Nezavisimyh Gosudarstv*, [https://antiteror.sis.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/polozhenie\\_o\\_poryadke\\_organizacii\\_i\\_provedeniya\\_sovmestnyh\\_antiterroristicheskikh\\_meropriyatij\\_na\\_territoriyah\\_gosudarstv\\_-\\_uchastnikov\\_sng.pdf](https://antiteror.sis.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/polozhenie_o_poryadke_organizacii_i_provedeniya_sovmestnyh_antiterroristicheskikh_meropriyatij_na_territoriyah_gosudarstv_-_uchastnikov_sng.pdf), (10.08.2022)

capture of criminals, as well as in their search. The cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with Europol's European Counter-Terrorism Centre remains limited<sup>123</sup>.

### **The Republic of Moldova and the GUAM cooperation in the field of combating terrorism**

In the context of the analysis of the international cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with regional organizations in the field of combating and preventing terrorism, the initiatives of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM in this direction must also be considered. GUAM is a regional association of four states – Georgia, Ukraine, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Moldova, which initially consisted of five states, including Uzbekistan. The creation of this form of cooperation is based on the coincidence of countries' positions on many issues of modern international relations. The beginning of cooperation between the future members of GUAM – Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova – can be considered their joint declaration at the meeting of the relevant OSCE committee on March 14, 1996, and on October 10, 1997 - Summit of Council of Europe, the rapprochement process took shape in the form of the creation of the GUAM Consultative Forum<sup>124</sup>. In 2006, this association was institutionalized in an international organization, within the Kyiv Summit, and received the official name of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM<sup>125</sup>.

In 2002, the member states of this organization signed an Agreement on cooperation between the governments of the GUAM member states in the field of combating terrorism, organized crime, and other types of dangerous crime<sup>126</sup>. The agreement notes that GUAM member states require their states to make joint efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, including by expanding cooperation and ensuring the implementation of relevant international conventions related to the fight against terrorism, recognizing the need to take additional measures to prevent and suppress on its territory the financing and preparation of any terrorist acts, using all legal means. In this way, the regional cooperation efforts of the member state in the field of preventing and combating terrorism were coordinated. GUAM noted the importance of developing and further improving the operational interaction of the special services of the member states, intensifying the exchange of information between them, and activating mutual participation in ongoing exercises and training.

In the field of combating crime and terrorism, GUAM actively cooperates with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Committee. GUAM countries participate in NATO-led peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the UN Security Council, such as operations in Kosovo (KFOR), Afghanistan (ISAF), and Africa (AFRICOM). This is considered one of the important steps in the fight against international terrorism.

### **Conclusions**

Therefore, in recent years, the Republic of Moldova has developed such a form of interdepartmental cooperation as the exchange of professional, technical, and research experience. In particular, law enforcement agencies from the Republic of Moldova regularly participate in various international seminars and training courses, including in the USA, Great Britain, and other countries. Similar seminars and meetings for the exchange of experience also take place in the Republic of Moldova. In our opinion, the representatives of the Republic of Moldova should be more actively represented in the bodies of international organizations that deal with the problems of combating international terrorism, as well as in the activity of relevant international seminars and conferences. Now

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<sup>123</sup> *Joint staff working document Association Implementation Report on the Republic of Moldova*, [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/swd\\_2021\\_295\\_f1\\_joint\\_staff\\_working\\_paper\\_en\\_v2\\_p1\\_1535649.pdf](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/swd_2021_295_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v2_p1_1535649.pdf), (10.08.2022)

<sup>124</sup> *GUAM: Istorija i institucional'noe stanovlenie*, <https://guam-organization.org/guam-organizatsiya-zademokratiyu-i-ekonomicheskoe-razvitiie-istoriya-i-institucionalnoe-stanovlenie/>, (10.08.2022)

<sup>125</sup> *Idem*

<sup>126</sup> *Protokol k Soglasheniyu o sotrudnichestve mezhdru Pravitel'stvami gosudarstv-uchastnikov GUUAM v sfere bor'by s terrorizmom, organizovannoj prestupnost'yu i inymi opasnymi vidami prestuplenij ot 20 iyulya 2002 goda*, [https://base.spinform.ru/show\\_doc.fwx?rgn=26173](https://base.spinform.ru/show_doc.fwx?rgn=26173), (10.08.2022)

the world community is waging a full-scale war on terrorism, testing whether state governments can create a single global anti-terrorist coalition.

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