United States Response to UN Note Verbale Request for Views on Countering Improvised Explosive Devices
Reference: ODA/20-2016/IED

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) pose a significant and enduring threat to United States interests and the global community. The increasingly transnational nature of the evolving IED threat demands a comprehensive global response. The IED threat against the global community is likely to remain high in the coming decade and will continue to evolve in response to counter-IED (C-IED) efforts. It is the policy of the United States to establish and implement measures to prevent, protect, respond to, recover from, and mitigate IED attacks. We will increase the effectiveness of our policy by:

- Leveraging, integrating, and aligning domestic, transborder, and international activities across the United States Government;
- Promoting robust cooperation with our allies and partner nations to advance awareness of the IED threat and enhance our collective counter-IED capabilities.

In response to the evolving IED threat, the U.S. expanded the scope of its C-IED policy in 2012, updating U.S. efforts to address the transnational nature of the IED threat. The expanded policy focuses on two primary goals: discovering IED threats early, and synchronizing whole-of-government capabilities.

The global threat of IED use makes it important for the U.S. interagency community and our foreign partners to collaborate and exchange information on diverse issues, including: training, capability development, and lessons learned. The United States will:

- work with international partners to prevent threats by raising global awareness of the threat of IED use;
- share information and intelligence across the interagency and with international partners;
- collaborate to dismantle IED networks and interrupt the financial support for and movement of IED components;
- partner with the private sector, especially within the global supply chain;
- arrest and prosecute individuals seeking to use IEDs; and
- leverage whole-of-government responsibilities, authorities, and resources to enhance national capabilities to counter the IED threat.
The participation of international partners, the private sector, and local communities is crucial to our success. The U.S. has shared "lessons learned" and insights regarding national legislation and regulations with various international partners. The U.S. welcomes information sharing and cooperation in the areas identified above and seeks to promote foreign partners' participation in the international efforts toward preventing the illegal use and flow of commercial explosives and the chemical precursors for homemade explosives.

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