

GHANA

International Agreements & UN Resolutions

Ghana is a party to several international instruments on international terrorism: (1) Tokyo Convention and Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircrafts of 1963; (2) Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation of 1971; (3) The Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircrafts; (4) Protocol Supplementing the 1971 Montreal Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence; (5) New York Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents of 1973; (6) International Convention Against Taking of Hostages of 1979; and (7) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation Supplementary to the Convention for Suppressing Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation of 1988.

Ghana has also ratified five UN Resolutions on International Terrorism and the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, Algiers, 1999: (1) the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism; (2) the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings; (3) the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation; (4) Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material; and (5) the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf. In addition, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has called for its members (including Ghana) to implement the Dakar Declaration on Terrorism, as well as all UN and OAU Conventions on terrorism.

Laws Pertaining To Biology

Ghana has produced a National Biosafety framework under the United Nations Environment Program (“UNEP”). In 2002 the National Environment Co-ordination and Management Act emphasized the need to develop a regulatory framework for bio-safety issues. Legislative instruments in Ghana pertain to Biotechnology and Agricultural concerns. The Ministry of Health is the main administrative agency that regulates food safety and quality control. The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology is the lead authority on biotechnology development. Biotechnology regulations have been prepared and submitted to the Cabinet.

Legislative and Policy Counter-Terrorism Initiatives

The government of Ghana has committed itself to making changes to its legislation and its policies to deny safe haven for terrorists and fight terrorism. The government of Ghana has committed to “review national laws and establish criminal offenses (i.e. amend Criminal Code Act 1960 Act 29) for terrorist acts and make such acts punishable.” A proposed Bill on Terrorism includes provisions dealing with the definition, jurisdiction, penalties, financing of terrorism, money laundering, as well as other aspects of terrorism. The government has promised to expedite action on this bill.

In addition, the government of Ghana has also committed itself to several sweeping goals in fighting terrorism: (1) the denial of safe haven for those who finance, plan, support or commit terrorist acts; (2) improvement of border controls to prevent terrorism movement; (3) elimination and prevention of abuse of refugee status by perpetrators, organizers, or facilitators of terrorist acts; and (4) installation of methods to freeze funds or other assets of “persons who commit, or attempt to commit terrorist acts or facilitate the commission of terrorist acts.” Work has already begun on modes of “suppressing the financing of terrorist acts and freezing of accounts and assets at banks and other financial institutions.”

Development of a Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Centre & Information Exchange

Ghana established a Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Centre in October, 2001 in response to the terrorist attacks against the United States. The Counter-Terrorism Centre is designed to ensure cooperation between all Units of the National Security Council and reports to the National Security Coordinator. The goal is to effectuate “the exchange of intelligence bordering on terrorism, narcotic trafficking and money laundering.” Units which have begun sharing important information include the Counter-terrorism Unit of Defense Intelligence; the Narcotic Control Board; the Customs, Excise, and Preventative Service; and, External and Internal Intelligence Units.

Regional exchange of information is welcomed by Ghana. “Steps are being made at the sub-regional level to promote the exchange of intelligence among the various counter-terrorism intelligence centres.” The National Security Council is also organizing training programs to educate members of the Security/Intelligence Service about counter-terrorism efforts.

The government of Ghana has also stated that it will be unable to accomplish these goals without technical assistance in certain areas. Resources are needed to support border patrols, maintain physical structures at borders (which are now highly porous), and keep Intelligence Agencies and the Counter-Intelligence Centre effectively operating.

Bibliography of Ghanaian Legislation

Legislative and Policy Changes to Fight Terrorism

1. Proposed Bill on Terrorism
2. Criminal Code Act 1960, Act 29

Laws Related to Biology and Science

1. Food and Drug Law
2. Inspection and Certification Decree
3. Prevention and Control of Pest and Diseased Plant Act
4. Pesticides Control and Management Act

Secondary Materials

1. *The Issue of Biotechnology: Ghana to Assess the Benefits and Risks* By Isabela Gyau Orhin, March 3, 2003
2. *U.S. – Africa Biotechnology Conference to be Held in Ghana: Experts to Discuss Advantages of Biotechnology in Agriculture* By Charles W. Corey, Washington Staff Writer
3. *Developing Biosafety Policy for Ghana: Issues and Options for Policy Makers* in: Science, Technology and Development, No. 16 (2) August 1998 with George O. Essegbey