

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings

(New York, 15 December 1997)

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Convention is to enhance international cooperation among States in devising and adopting effective and practical measures for the prevention of the acts of terrorism, and for the prosecution and punishment of their perpetrators.

KEY PROVISIONS

Any person commits an offence within the meaning of the Convention if that person unlawfully and intentionally delivers, places, discharges or detonates an explosive or other lethal device in, into or against a place of public use, a State or government facility, a public transportation system or an infrastructure facility, with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or extensive destruction likely to result or actually resulting in major economic loss. Any person also commits such an offence if that person attempts to commit an offence as set forth above or participates as an accomplice in an offence, organizes or directs others to commit an offence or in any other way contributes to the commission of such an offence by a group of persons acting with a common purpose. The Convention does not apply where an act of this nature does not involve any international elements as defined by the Convention.

States parties are required to establish jurisdiction over and make punishable, under their domestic laws, the offences described, to extradite or submit for prosecution persons accused of committing or aiding in the commission of the offences, and to assist each other in connection with criminal proceedings under the Convention. The offences referred to in the Convention are deemed to be extraditable offences between States parties under existing extradition treaties and under the Convention itself.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Convention entered into force on 23 May 2001, the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the twenty-second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession (article 22).

HOW TO BECOME A PARTY TO THE CONVENTION

The Convention is closed for signature. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by signatory States. The Convention is open to accession by any State (article 21).

OPTIONAL AND/OR MANDATORY DECLARATIONS ET NOTIFICATIONS

Pursuant to article 6(2), a State party may establish additional jurisdiction over offences under the Convention when the offence is committed under certain circumstances. Upon

ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention, each State party shall notify the Secretary-General of the jurisdiction it has established in accordance with article 6(2) (article 6(3)).

The State party where an alleged offender is prosecuted shall, in accordance with its domestic law or applicable procedures, communicate the final outcome of the proceedings to the Secretary-General (article 16).

RESERVATIONS

The Convention is silent with regard to reservations. Pursuant to article 20(2), States may declare that they do not consider themselves bound by article 20(1), according to which disputes among States parties relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention which are not settled by negotiation will be submitted to arbitration and, failing agreement on the organization of the arbitration six months after the date of the request for arbitration, to the International Court of Justice (article 20).

WITHDRAWAL/DENUNCIATION

Any State party may denounce the Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such denunciation shall take effect one year following the date on which the notification is received by the Secretary-General (article 23).