United Nations Security Council & Terrorism Dataset (UNSC-TDS)
Codebook, version 1.0 (1 December 2013)

Christian Dorsch, University of Bamberg, Germany
christian.dorsch@uni-bamberg.de
chris.dorsch@web.de

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Author information:
Christian Dorsch is a researcher at the University of Bamberg, Germany.

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I also want to thank Thomas Gehring, Daniel Odinius, and Thomas Dörfler for their comments on this work.
1. Introduction to the UNSC-TDS

While studying the evolution of the UN Security Council’s activity on terrorism for the research project "Theory of International Organizations and the United Nations Security Council", a substantial research gap was noticed that hampered the project’s intended analysis of the Council’s related practice. To address the lack of reliable, comprehensive, and coherent data on the Council’s activity on terrorism, a new dataset was created using available secondary sources and conducting primary research in United Nations documents.

For more details on these gaps, see [DRAFT PAPER submitted do "Terrorism and Political Violence", pp. x-x]

Primary research commenced in the fall of 2011 and was concluded in early 2013. A MS Access database was used by the research team for internal use to facilitate and standardize the entry of data, the discussion of ambiguous cases, and the filtering of data. The resulting individual datasets were exported to MS Excel for publication as the UNSC-TDS (MS Excel file).

For illustrative purposes, see figure 1 below, which depicts the internal data entry form, figure 2 below, which depicts the internal data report of all individual datasets, and figure 3 below, which beginning of the list of individual datasets that comprise the United Nations Security Council & Terrorism Dataset (UNSC-TDS).

Figure 1: Internal data entry form (MS Access) for the research team
**Figure 2: The UNSC-TDS as a data report (MS Access)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>UN Doc.</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Text Based against</th>
<th>CT Mandate</th>
<th>Decision Making</th>
<th>Meeting Req.</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Summary Note</th>
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<td>E52/B1</td>
<td>NIH</td>
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<td>implicit</td>
<td>counterterrorism</td>
<td>purchased</td>
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**Figure 3: The UNSC-TDS as a published file (MS Excel)**

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2. Sources Used for Creating the UNSC-TDS

Based on preliminary assessments of the available primary documents, a graduated research strategy was chosen because it promised selective and time-saving searches but high confidence that few relevant decisions would be missed:

First, the existing UN lists were used to create an initial dataset. These official lists of the UN Secretariat were publically accessible at:


Second, the existing expert literature was used to identify potentially missing decisions and add them to the initial dataset, which now allowed conceptualizing coherent coding rules (see below, section 3). The secondary sources included:

- Christopher Michaelisen, "The Security Council's Al Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Regime: "Essential Tool" or Increasing Liability for the UN's Counterterrorism Efforts?," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 33, no. 5 (2010): 448-63;
Third, key official sources on the decision making of the UNSC were systematically searched for potentially missing relevant decisions:


Within these materials a full-text search for “terror” was conducted, which also produced hits for terrorism, terrorist, or counterterrorism. The starting point was the Repertoire. To cover the temporal gap of the Repertoire (2008-2012), a second search was conducted in the UNSC’s Annual Reports to the UN General Assembly for 1988-2012. Press statements were searched through the respective UN database.

Fourth, to identify some unintended general bias or recent decisions that might have been missed by the research strategy, early results of the desk research were also discussed with experts from the UN Secretariat, delegations of UN member states, and research institutions. Interviews with almost two scores of experts were conducted in New York City in March and April 2012.

Finally, wherever hits suggested there could have been prior or subsequent UNSC deliberations on terrorism under certain agenda items, detailed searches were also conducted within verbatim records, letters, draft proposals, resolutions, presidential statements, presidential press statements, and, where necessary, press reports. Additional documents were retrieved through:

- all press reports used were retrieved through the commercial Lexis database: http://www.lexisnexis.com/de/business [21 May 2013].

3. Definitions Used in the UNSC-TDS

3.0 Preliminary Coding Rules

First, any activity was to be included in the overall dataset if it represented a successful (decision) or failed proposal (nondecision) for a particular UNSC action in a terrorism-related
situation, including some explicit or implicit provision on how terrorism was relevant for the UNSC’s mandate at the time of decision making.

Second, to avoid inflating the dataset, only one decision or nondecision should be coded when separate votes were taken on individual parts of a draft that was also voted on as a whole. The same should apply when several proposals were made in deliberations on one specific terrorism-related situation but only one draft was put to vote or the deliberations on the situation were ended or adjourned without any further action. These distinctions follow similar ones by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2013, "Vetoed Draft Resolutions in the United Nations Security Council 1946-2012" (London, 6 June 2013), 11.

3.1 Date

The date concerns the day when a draft decision was explicitly adopted or rejected, or when the consideration of an agenda item was adjourned without follow-up.

3.2 Document Number (UN doc. #)

The document number corresponds to the one used in the official UN system and indicates where the text of a resolution, statement, draft or proposal can be found.

3.3 Formal Type of Activity (Formal)

This item comprises eight formal types of activity:

First and second, formal decisions or resolutions (S/RES/number), either as RES (VII) or as RES (VI). In the first case the UNSC made an explicit determination that a threat to the peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression existed, and/or explicitly or implicitly stated that it was acting under chapter VII. In the second case the UNSC made no such determination and/or statement. This distinction follows Patrik Johansson, 'The Humdrum Use of Ultimate Authority: Defining and Analysing Chapter VII Resolutions', Nordic Journal of International Law 78, no. 3 (2009), 309-42.

Third and fourth, formal nondecisions or drafts (normally S/document number or S/year/document number, sometimes only S/PV.meeting number), either as draft (VII) or draft (VI). In the first case the UNSC failed to adopt a text with an explicit determination that a threat to the peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression existed, and/or explicit or implicit statement that it would have acted under chapter VII (see previous paragraph).

Fifth and Sixth, informal decisions or statements (also applicable to early substantial notes), either as a presidential statement (PRST) or as presidential press statement (SC (PPST)). In the first case the collective statement was adopted in a formal meeting and/or used corporative language (“the Council …”). In the second case the collective statement was adopted without a formal meeting (informal consultations only) and/or used collective but not corporative language (“the Members …”). This distinction follows Stefan Talmon, "The Statements by the President of the Security Council," Chinese Journal of International Law 2, no. 2 (2003): 422-39, 453-58.

Seventh and eighth, informal nondecisions or proposals if states submit no pre-formulated draft but make a concrete proposal on substantive UNSC action, either as proposal (VII) or
proposal (VI). In the first case the UNSC failed to adopt a proposal with an explicit determination that a threat to the peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression existed, and/or explicit or implicit statement that it would have acted under chapter VII (see above). The distinction between proposal and suggestions (vague “test balloons” but no concrete course of action) follows Sydney Bailey and Sam Daws, *The Procedure of the UN Security Council*, 3rd ed. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1998), 129-30.

3.4 Basic Type of Activity (Basic)

The basic type of activity is decision or nondecision, whereby the former indicates a successful draft decision and the latter indicates a failed draft or proposal.

3.5 Identification of Activity (Ident.)

The type of identification includes explicit relevance or implicit relevance. In the former case the text of a decision or nondecision makes explicit reference to terrorism and specifies how terrorism is relevant for the UNSC’s mandate. In the latter case the text makes no explicit reference to terrorism but sponsors, supporters, and/or opponents of proposals and drafts explicitly framed situations as terrorism-related or linked it to earlier decisions on such situations.

3.6 Focus of Activity (Focus)

The type of focus includes terrorism and other. In the first case the UNSC was acting against certain terrorist acts or groups, or calling on states to counter terrorism, the decision or nondecision should be coded as having a focus on terrorism. In the second case the UNSC included relevant provisions on terrorism but focused on other issues in the situation addressed by the decision and nondecision.

3.7 Textual Bias of Activity (Bias)

The type of bias refers to the textual bias and includes a bias against terrorism and a bias against counterterrorism. In the first case the UNSC condemned terrorist acts or support for terrorism, called for or imposed obligations for international cooperation against terrorism, or approved international counterterrorism measures. In the second case the UNSC acted against (alleged) counterterrorism measures. In case the UNSC acted against terrorism and counterterrorism at the same time, its activity should be coded according to what the more specific and/or drastic language aimed at.

3.8 Jurisdictional Bias of Activity (Mandate)

The type of mandate refers to the jurisdictional bias and includes activity that affirmed or dismissed a UNSC mandate to act against terrorism. In first case the UNSC directly acted against terrorism or failed to do so but members did not question that the body could generally do so under its mandate. In the second case the UNSC failed to act directly against terrorism because members considered terrorism to be a national or international issue that fell outside the body’s mandate.
3.9 Type of Decision Making (Adopt.)

Refers to six types of decision making that adopted a decision or nondecision, including **unanimous vote** (11 (until 1965) or 15 (since 1966) against none), **positive vote** (7 or 9 affirmative votes and no veto), **consensus** (no formal vote taken but adopted without objection), **negative vote** (less than 7 or 9 votes in favor), **veto** (would have passed except for a negative vote by at least one of the P5 prevented adoption), and **other failure** (no formal vote on draft or proposal).

3.10 Actual Vote Count (Vote)

The vote includes the format of the actual vote count (votes in favor – against – abstentions). If a nondecision has nine or more positive votes, it was vetoed; if no vote count is given, the decision was adopted or rejected by consensus. Please note, before 1966 seven votes was the threshold. If the given votes do not add up to 11 or 15, some members did not participate in the respective vote.

3.11 Key Meeting Record of Activity (Meeting)

The meeting record designates the meeting where the (non)decision was taken. If no verbatim record is given, the decision was adopted by consensus in informal consultations.

3.12 Brief Substantive Note on Activity (Summary Note)

The brief summary note provides substantive guidance on key aspects by naming the conflict or the key actors involved, stating the substantive relevance for the UNSC’s activity on terrorism, and restating the formal type of UNSC decision (e.g. vetoed draft resolution).