THREAT CONVERGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:
INDICATORS AND CHALLENGES

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Threat Convergence Indicators

- Five regions to date:
  - Black Sea
  - South Caucasus
  - Tri-border Area, South America
  - East Africa
  - West Africa
Threat Convergence Indicators

- Weak governance
- Border insecurity
- Organized crime
- Corruption
- Illicit trafficking in arms, drugs and other contraband
- Terrorism
South America’s Tri-Border Area

South America’s Smuggling Hub

Paraguay ranks among the world’s top producers of contraband cigarettes, feeding illicit markets across Latin America. The notorious Tri-Border area—where Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay meet—sits at the core of the trade.

Source: International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
www.icij.org

Graphic by www.stephenfreuntree.com
Threat Convergence in East Africa and the Horn

Threat Convergence Indicators

- Initiatives to deal with these conditions are rarely coordinated with WMD proliferation and/or terrorism prevention efforts.
- Trending in recent years, but no systematization
- UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR 1373 are but two frameworks under which improved coordination could occur
- Some overlapping characteristics in each region, but ultimately they require unique solutions
- Unpredictability + Impact = SCARY
Threat Convergence Lessons

- Increase awareness about and strengthen fissile material security around the globe

- Strengthen institutional capacities

- Develop training and methods to broaden scope and understanding of interconnected capacities

- Strengthen existing mechanisms for regional security cooperation

- Foster a culture of accountability in order to combat crime, radicalism and the potential for nuclear trafficking

- Deepen understanding of political, social and financial organization of networks of interest
Challenges to Information and Intelligence Sharing

- More nuanced understanding of networks and relationships of illicit actors

- Better understanding of inter-agency and inter-governmental information sharing opportunities and challenges

- Leads to a better identification of intelligence and cooperation needs
Challenges to Information and Intelligence Sharing

- Barriers are the same as the indicators

- Individually, states may have weak institutional capacities to deal with challenges of threat convergence

- Regionally, uneven capacities and priorities of state intelligence, border security and immigration control services

- Political infrastructure for intelligence sharing may be in place, but basic bureaucratic challenges to implementation are often overlooked