

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



Threat Convergence in East Africa and the Horn



Map courtesy of McFadden and Associates, in Grossman-Vermaas, Huber and Kapitanskaya, *Minimizing Threat Convergence Risks in East Africa and the Horn*, The Fund for Peace, 2010

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**