SELF-DEFENSE, PREEMPTIVE WAR
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

COLLECTIVE SELF-DEFENSE
It is understood as the collective response to an armed attack by a State against several States or as an act of defense of a victim State carried out by one or more States against an armed attack. The reason is not that these States have also been attacked, but this is justified in the general interest of maintaining international peace and security. Two conditions must be met:

The State, for whom the right of self-defense is exercised, declares itself to have been “victim of an armed attack”

The State, considered itself to be victim of an armed attack, requests help from the others

PREEMPTIVE WAR
It is an action undertaken in an attempt to repel a perceived imminent offensive or invasion, or to gain a strategic advantage in an impending conflict.

Self-defense would be restricted to a response to an armed attack, in accordance with art.51 of the UN Charter. However, it is an ancient practice that an imminent threat, emanating from a nearby State or from disturbances coming from enemy forces in a foreign territory, may justify the preemptive strikes.

The doctrine by the president George W. Bush on preemptive strikes refers to the potential threat of “rogue” States with weapons of mass destruction. However, the problem for determining the imminent and extreme threat remains a matter of dispute

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
Crime of terrorism is any action or threat of violence committed by an individual or by a group against people, organizations, places and transport and communication systems, which are internationally protected, to try to cause damage or death and with the objective of forcing a State to take certain measures or to grant certain concessions. The preparation of international regulations for its prevention and suppression keep the UN, other IOs, scientific associations and States occupied, but it is not so easy to achieve satisfactory results due to the political implications that the acts of terrorism usually involve. At regional level it is highlighted the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (1977). At global level a series of conventions have been adopted covering various and specific manifestations of international terrorism