



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

APU

R.136/37/14

Resolution on “African countries build national capacities and promote international cooperation to combat terrorism in all its forms”

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 37th Conference in Rabat, Morocco, on 1 and 2 November 2014,

- (a) *Considering* that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, continues to be one of the most serious threats to global peace and security, and that all acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable,
- (b) *Considering, also*, that terrorism must not be confused with legitimate struggles for liberation,
- (c) *Noting* with concern that in the past decade, the threat of terrorism in Africa has worsened, where entire regions are targeted by these terrorist groups,
- (d) *Affirming* that terrorism cannot be associated with a religion, nationality, a political ideology, civilization or ethnicity,
- (e) *Observing* that the terrorist threats on the continent may be in the form of:
 - Attacks against the interests of African countries;
 - Attacks against the interests of other non African countries;
 - Using African territories as sanctuaries;
 - Using Africa as a zone for terrorist operations, recruitment and financing;
 - Using Africa as a transit point for terrorists, collection of funds and activities of organized crime;
- (f) *Considering* that the emergence of terrorist groups in Africa is the consequence of factors, such as:
 - Lack of political and economic governance;
 - Lack of the rule of law, democracy, and the refusal to peacefully handover power;
 - Persisting poverty, injustice, illiteracy and unemployment among the youth, in particular, and the population in general, making them vulnerable to the lure of terrorist groups and corruption;
 - Poor support for women and the insignificant space given them;
 - Search for refuge by criminal networks in areas with inadequate security and administrative cover;
 - The existence of illegal cross-border movements of persons and goods ;

- Organized transnational crime through smuggling, drug and arms trafficking, illegal migration, human trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, proliferation of illicit weapons and money laundering;
 - The illegal exploitation of natural resources;
- (g) *Convinced* that internal and regional conflicts foment the emergence of terrorist groups,
- (h) *Deeply concerned* about the importance of the material and financial resources at the disposal of these terrorist groups and organizations, which are a threat to global peace and security,
- (i) *Noting* that the funds received by terrorist groups empower them to perpetrate their criminal and recruitment operations,
- (j) *Aware* of the use of the media, especially the internet and social media, by terrorists to have maximum impact and to draw attention to themselves from all over the world to denounce their crimes such as extreme violence including genocide,
- (k) *Concerned* about the existence of an essentially monetary economy and an informal sector in several African countries, which escape the control and surveillance of the authorities, reducing thereby the impact of efforts being made to combat money laundering and terrorist financing,
- (l) *Stressing* the need to use all means to combat international terrorism, which is threatening peace and security in Africa and the world over, in line with the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant United Nations human rights conventions,
- (m) *Aware* that combating terrorism entails mobilizing all African countries and the entire international community by involving Governments, parliaments and civil society,
- (n) *Convinced* that parliaments have a major role to play in combating terrorism and eliminating its deep causes,
- (o) *Aware* of the role played by parliaments and the media to facilitate understanding and cooperation among peoples, and promote tolerance and dialogue among them, thereby contributing to preventing armed conflicts and terrorism,
- (p) *Underlining* the role played by parliaments and civil society in promoting democracy, human rights and peaceful conflict settlement, as a means for preventing terrorism,
- (q) *Stressing* the need to develop cooperation and mutual understanding among countries in the fight against terrorism,
- (r) *Focusing* on the need for international cooperation and the involvement of the United Nations and the African Union in the fight against terrorism, its deep causes and financing,
- (s) *Recalling* all the relevant instruments of the United Nations and the African Union and other regional and international organizations on preventing and combating terrorism, in particular the 1999 Algiers Convention and its 2004 Protocol, adopted by the African Union, United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), the 8 September 2006 United Nations General Assembly resolution and action plan on Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and African Union Security Council resolutions 256 (2009) and 1904 (2009) on terrorism financing,

- (t) Further *recalling* the African Union Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, approved by the Second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in N'Djamena from 3 to 6 March 2003, aimed at giving concrete expression to the commitments of African Union member States, on combating terrorism, pursuant to the Algiers Convention and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001),
- (u) *Recalling* its resolutions on conflicts and terrorism in Africa, especially:
- Resolution R134/36/13 on “The role of African parliaments in mobilizing Governments and people to end all forms of armed conflicts on the African continent” (Libreville, November 2013);
 - Resolution R129/30/10 on “Preservation of peace and social stability by strengthening good governance” (Malabo, December 2010);
 - Resolution 103/24/01 on combating terrorism (Abuja, October 2001);
 - Resolution R 92/22I/99 on “Terrorism, factor of destabilization in Africa” (Luanda, September 1999);
 - Resolution R 84/21I/98 condemning terrorism (Niamey, August 1998);
- (v) *Recalling* further the spirit of Conventions on borders inherited from colonial masters,
1. *Calls on* African States to strengthen measures aimed at eliminating conditions that foster the propagation of terrorism, by putting an end to political tensions and conflicts by promoting democracy, rule of law and peaceful change of governments, good governance and human rights, protecting victims of terrorism, , fighting social discrimination, political exclusion and socioeconomic marginalization, while affirming that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism;
 2. *Requests* African States to promote the creation of areas of economic cooperation in their border regions in order to promote regional and sub regional integration;
 3. *Calls on* the international community to organize a world conference to clearly define terrorism so as not to confuse it with legitimate struggles for liberation;
 4. *Requests* African states to ensure that the fight against terrorism is based on actions that are political (political will), diplomatic (cooperation, coordination and coherence of initiatives), socioeconomic (combat unemployment, social exclusion, radicalisms and extremism) and security related (building operational capacity of defense and security forces);
 5. *Urges* African States to make it a priority to sign, ratify and accede to these international instruments and other relevant counter-terrorism instruments; notably the Treaty on the sale of arms;
 6. *Urges* African States to implement a training program to equip national armies in counter-terrorism through regional and international cooperation;
 7. *Encourages* African States to use inclusive political dialogue in conflict prevention, accord importance to the role of parliaments and civil society, traditional and religious leaders in this dialogue, and encourage the implementation of programs on peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

8. *Recommends* to African States and international and regional organizations to promote peaceful coexistence, inter-faith and intercultural understanding;
9. *Requests* States to ensure that all counter-terrorism measures are in line with the principles of law, notably, international human rights laws and international humanitarian laws;
10. *Requests* further that States should take the necessary measures to defend and protect the rights of victims of terrorism;
11. *Encourages* Governments and parliaments of countries confronted by internal armed conflicts or terrorism situations to take all legal and political measures to stop the violence, restore social cohesion and promote peace and reconciliation among their people;
12. *Calls on* African States to double their efforts to fight against social injustice, marginalization and extremism, by encouraging youth employment and promoting sustainable development;
13. *Calls on* parliaments, to ensure, in passing laws and controlling the enforcement of the laws, that they contribute effectively to preventing and avoiding armed conflicts and terrorism;
14. *Commits* the States to implement development plans in regions affected by terrorism in order to bring stability among the populations;
15. *Requests* the media to contribute to consolidating peace, promotion of dialogue and reconciliation, and values of tolerance and non-violence, especially by opening up media spaces to people affected by armed conflicts or terrorism;
16. *Urges* the press, and audiovisual and online media not to broadcast information spread by terrorist groups and social networks, so as to limit the impact expected by these criminal organizations;
17. *Urges* States to take the necessary steps to prevent financial and banking institutions, organizations or other entities operating in territories under their jurisdiction to be used by terrorists to finance their activities or for money laundering operations;
18. *Encourage* States to accelerate procedures to adapt their national legislation, condemning terrorism, extreme crimes such as genocide or their denial, by drawing on the African Union Model Counter-Terrorism Law to enhance and/or update their national laws;
19. *Calls on* parliaments to support and facilitate government efforts to combat terrorism and its deep causes, and to and introduce legal and regulatory mechanisms to prevent and combat terrorism and its financing, especially cross-border terrorism; and also prevent kidnappings for ransom, money laundering, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and organized crime;
20. *Requests* the international community to pursue efforts to fight terrorism in Africa, and assist African countries, where necessary, in applying international standards for money laundering and terrorism financing;
21. *Commits* parliaments to encourage exchange of information on and experiences in implementing efficient counter-terrorism legislative measures ;

22. *Calls on* States to build their capacities in surveillance and border patrols for land, sea and air, as well as those of the customs and immigration points so as to prevent any form of infiltration of arms, individuals or groups involved in planning, organizing and carrying out acts of terrorism;
23. *Calls on* African States to cooperate through coordination with various security organs of countries across Africa in order to strengthen cooperation, mutual assistance and improve the effectiveness of Africa's collective action to counter terrorism, and encourage the various regional and sub-regional communities to cooperate more in this area;
24. *Requests* African States to cooperate by coordinating their security services, and work together with relevant bodies of the AU, to strengthen cooperation and mutual legal aid, to improve the efficiency of Africa's collective action against terrorism;
25. *Encourages* African States to counter acts of terrorism through policies and coordinated and targeted measures at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, in the areas of policing and justice, by pooling information, strengthening the legal frameworks and preventing cross-border terrorist movements;
26. *Supports* the setting up of national and regional coordination institutions and regional intervention forces to deal with transnational threats from terrorist groups;
27. *Calls on* the international community and international and regional organizations to facilitate the supply of technical assistance to:
 - Build country capacities in training criminal justice officers;
 - Promote international cooperation in criminal affairs relating to terrorism in the region, especially among different legal systems (civil law and Common Law, for instance);
28. *Encourages* States, on the one hand, to promote counter-terrorism mechanisms such as, the regional intervention force in Central Africa and the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit, set up by the African Union and the regional economic communities, and on the other, speed up operationalization of the African Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and instituting an African arrest warrant against persons accused or recognized as guilty of acts of terrorism;
29. *Commends* the role played by the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (CAERT), based in Algeria, whose resources must be strengthened, in view of its contribution to building the technical, scientific and operational capacities of counter-terrorism in African countries, through its coordination, evaluation, counseling and training missions.