



R.146/41/18

**The role of parliaments in combating terrorism,
armed groups and organized crime in Africa**

*Resolution 146 (2018) adopted by the 41st Conference
(Abuja, 9 November 2018)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 40th Conference on 8 and 9 November 2018 in Abuja, (Nigeria),

Reaffirming the overarching need to use all means to wage a relentless war against terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, which threatens peace and security in Africa and in the world, in accordance with international and regional legal instruments, such as

The OAU/AU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (Algiers, 1999) and its Additional Protocol (Addis Ababa, 2004)

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 1999),

Reaffirming also that poverty, religious radicalism, civil, political and military conflicts, racial discrimination, internal tensions, organized crime, including smuggling, money laundering, drug and arms trafficking, maritime piracy, human trafficking, trafficking in human organs, illegal migration and cybercriminality contribute to the emergence, spread and the funding of terrorism in Africa,

Convinced that holding regular, free, transparent, peaceful and credible elections all augur well for the establishment of democracy, good governance and rule of law in African countries,

Affirming that political crises stemming from contested electoral processes or unconstitutional changes threaten democratic processes in African countries,

Underlining that the democratic deficit, unequal distribution of economic wealth, failure of health and education structures, lack of employment opportunities for young people, and impoverishment, are the crucible for recruiters of international terrorism,

Emphasizing that fragile and weak institutions, corruption and the culture of impunity are major concerns and obstacles to good governance and the rule of law,

Considering that some parts of the continent remain insecure, with frequent clashes between rebels and military forces, hostage-taking with ransoms, illicit trafficking of goods and human beings, organized crime, and terrorism,

Concerned by the presence of identified armed terrorist groups that are maintained and bolstered by illicit trafficking and pose a constant threat to national and international security,

Deploring the fact that the criminal justice system is not functioning properly in some African countries and that actual implementation of international conventions and protocols is often lacking,

Convinced that strategies to combat terrorism, armed groups and organized crime call for national reconciliation and the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the fight against impunity,

Recalling resolution 149/39/16 on counter-terrorism adopted by African countries in Rabat (Nov. 2016),

1. *Reaffirms* that eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development are inseparable from counter-terrorism;
2. *Emphasizes* the need to consolidate State institutions by promoting universal values of democracy and the rule of law, including respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms;
3. *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to ensure that security requirements and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are at the core of all strategies to combat terrorism, armed groups and organized crime;
4. *Calls for* fair and balanced political and economic inclusion of young people, as a key factor of preventing terrorism and organized crime, leading to a change in perceptions of marginalization that have instigated communities to support armed groups;
5. *Commits* parliaments and governments to introduce educational systems that address the true situation of the local, national and international job market;
6. *Calls upon* parliaments to ensure the ratification and implementation of counter-terrorism international and regional instruments, and alignment and harmonization of national legislation;
7. *Calls upon* governments to develop effective policies, strategies and action plans at the international, regional and national levels, in conformity with international conventions, and supported by sufficient financial resources to counter terrorism, state terrorism, armed groups, including effective border surveillance against trafficking of all kinds;

8. *Recommends* that Governments strengthen the capacity of criminal justice officials and security forces;

9. *Urges* governments to promote, at the national level, specialization of criminal justice security forces officials in counter-terrorism and/or other forms of transnational crime;

10. *Urges* governments and parliaments of post-conflict or transitional States to set up an accessible and credible national criminal justice and national reconciliation system, aligned with international standards for a return to stability;

11. *Calls upon* parliaments to ensure greater access to justice and respect for the human rights of the most vulnerable groups, as a means of preventing crime and violence;

12. *Invites* African Parliaments to exchange information and experiences, with a view to implementing common and effective legislative measures;

13. *Calls for* a cooperative and coordinated approach to counter-terrorism at the trans-regional, regional and national levels, ensuring coordination among national authorities, cooperation among States, cooperation with international and regional organizations, and partnerships between public authorities, the private sector (business, industry), civil society, the media and populations;

14. *Calls on* States to promote the "International Day of Living Together in Peace", celebrated every year on 16 May, as a means of raising awareness and combating terrorism.