



**R /155/45 (2023)**

**Combating insecurity and terrorism,  
factors of political instability and recession**

*Resolution adopted by the 45<sup>th</sup> Conference  
(Abidjan, 15 december 2023)*

*The African Parliamentary Union, meeting in its 45th Conference on December 14 and 15, 2023, in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire),*

*Considering* the large number of victims of terrorism in the Sahel and on the African continent in recent years,

*Noting* that several regions of the African continent are experiencing growing insecurity due in particular to armed conflicts and terrorism,

*Convinced* that the fight against insecurity and terrorism shall be underpinned by global action at the political, economic and social levels and must not be limited to military and security initiatives,

*Stressing* that political instability is partly the consequence of the weakening of authority and the questioning of the legitimacy of those who govern, gaps in the rule of law, insecurity and persistence of poverty,

*Emphasizing* the need for democratic management of power in order to preserve political stability through democratic alternation,

*Underlining* the importance of institutional counter-powers and their preservation from any exploitation by political power,

*Recalling* that political power is based on the principles of democratic legitimacy and constitutional legality,

*Observing* that insecurity spreads across porous borders and has dramatic consequences for populations,

*Affirming* that conflicts are causing a massive influx of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to other regions,

*Stressing* that security problems and irregular migration flows resulting from conflicts have serious political, social and economic repercussions on other regions,

*Aware* that insecurity constitutes a critical national and even international problem,

*Convinced* that insecurity and poverty reinforce each other particularly in a climate of persistent economic instability, poverty, climate change, youth unemployment, political and social fragility, all challenges to which are added threats terrorists,

*Concerned* by the increase in terrorist attacks in certain regions of the continent which raises fears of a loss of control of the security issue by local authorities, as well as an expansion of the area of instability to other regions,

*Affirming* that among the root causes of situations of insecurity are the difficulties linked to unfavourable social-economic conditions,

*Stressing* that corruption constitutes a major scourge which undermines development and security, generating discontent among populations against institutions,

*Concerned* by arms trafficking on the African continent which benefits armed groups and which directly threatens national and regional security,

*Observing* that income from organized crime disrupts local economies, poisons relations between communities by endangering traditional authority,

*Aware* that violent extremist groups originate from Africa and other continents and are only the product of local and regional dynamics and are considered by certain communities as the means of restoring law and public order in the absence of an effective presence of the state,

*Deploring* the seizure of power by force in certain countries, calling into question the constitutional order and political stability,

1. *Affirms* that the fight against insecurity and terrorism involves eliminating the causes that gave rise to these scourges by promoting good political and economic governance in the service of the populations and for their well-being; the security and military option alone cannot put an end to these scourges;

2. *Calls on* African States to ensure that elections are free, transparent and fair, that counter-powers, in particular justice and especially constitutional jurisdictions, are not used for personal ends, and to guarantee alternation democratic enshrined in the fundamental law and the electoral code;

3. *Calls for* the promotion of democratic culture through the acceptance of the rules of the democratic game by those who govern and those who are governed; the effective acceptance of constitutional rules, their rigorous implementation in practice and the democratic governance of power are essential prerequisites for the rooting of democracy, without external interference;

4. *Urges* African States to take measures aimed at mitigating, if not resolving, social inequalities, particularly through the representation of young people and women in the exercise of political power;

5. *Calls on* African States to ensure the establishment and exercise of constitutional justice respectful of democratic values and principles, as a jurisdictional guarantee of the principle of separation of powers;

6. *Urges* African States, in their efforts to consolidate the democratic process, to promote the role of civil society which works for economic and social development, for the building of a democratic society, in a climate of peace;

7. *Urges* African States to adopt a comprehensive approach based on peace, security and development, and to put in place common strategies to combat insecurity and terrorism based on African realities and fundamentally focused on:

- ✓ human security, the culture of peace and good governance conducive to development;
- ✓ intensifying awareness-raising actions by involving young people in the fight against terrorism and providing them with the means to become key actors in the promotion of inter-community mixing and living together;
- ✓ the fight against the marginalization of young people, poverty, corruption and impunity;
- ✓ intensifying programmes to empower women and support children's education;
- ✓ the development of human capacities;
- ✓ shared security governance through the involvement of communities, young people, women, community leaders and national and local elected officials;
- ✓ the principle of non-negotiation with terrorists;
- ✓ the establishment of a blacklist of individuals and groups involved in terrorist acts;
- ✓ the drying up of the material and ideological sources of terrorists;
- ✓ International advocacy for the criminalization of the payment of ransoms to terrorists;
- ✓ strengthening mechanisms to combat money laundering and terrorism financing;
- ✓ strengthening regional and international cooperation in accordance with the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States;
- ✓ strengthening the African Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL);
- ✓ the increased importance of the media in the fight against terrorism;

8. *Asks* governments to respond effectively to the basic needs of populations, which significantly contributes to alleviating social tensions;

9. *Calls for* the promotion of economic independence, a key element of sovereignty, notably by developing diversified economies, strengthening the capacity to negotiate fair trade agreements, by reducing dependence on raw materials and ensuring that national legislation is compatible with commitments made under the African Continental Free Trade Area;

10. *Calls on* African States to ensure, with the help of civil society, that poverty reduction strategies have a potential impact on instability or conflict, and that they are designed to mitigate these risks;

11. *Invites* African States, with the participation of civil society, to adopt an effective strategy to combat bad governance characterized in particular by corruption, unequal access to justice and nepotism, all evils which often exclude a part of the population on the basis of ethnic and/or political criteria;

12. *Urges* African countries to adopt global strategies in the fight against terrorism, focusing on the causes that gave rise to this scourge and consequently implementing prevention policies focused on economic and social progress;

13. *Calls on* African States to adopt policies aimed at integrating marginalized young people, training them in leadership skills, involving them in making decisions about their future, and giving them the means to acquire skills that the traditional education system cannot provide them;

14. *Urges* African States, in terms of regional stabilization, to coordinate their actions, for greater effectiveness, and to direct their efforts on security, governance, humanitarian assistance and development; the effectiveness of these actions depends above all on their good coordination;

15. *Calls on* the international community and development partners to contribute to efforts in the field of humanitarian assistance and development, particularly in the face of a humanitarian crisis, the challenges of terrorism and climate change and the need to involve women and young people in the process of political and economic stabilization;

16. *Calls for* the transparent and equitable use of natural resources in African countries, including access to land, so that they contribute to national development and prevent the emergence and financing of current or potential conflicts;

17. *Urges* African States, in their fight against organized crime, to strengthen border surveillance due to their permeability which, on the one hand, facilitates criminal activities, particularly the trafficking of weapons and illegal substances, and on the other on the other hand, perpetuates situations of insecurity and terrorist threats; the establishment of a border control/surveillance system and joint patrols along common borders are necessary for improving border security;

18. *Calls on* neighbouring States to increase their efforts in terms of cooperation on securing cross-border transhumance through its corridors, which are vectors of infiltration and supply to terrorist networks;

19. *Encourages* African States to cooperate and coordinate their actions with a view to limiting insecurity and irregular migration and avoiding the increase in trafficking of all kinds and the loss of human life;

20. *Calls on* the African Union to accelerate the operationalization of the Peace Fund;

21. *Calls upon* refugee aid and protection organisations to ensure that their actions do not discriminate against host communities and to promote harmonious coexistence between communities;

22. *Calls on* the international community and regional and international financial institutions to focus their efforts on strengthening good governance and the rule of law in African countries, which promotes economic and social development through increased income and improving the living conditions of local populations, notably through youth employment;

23. *Recommends* the establishment of a APU Parliamentary Group to promote the exchange of experiences in the field of women's economic empowerment;

24. Also recommends the establishment of a new work programme of the APU in the field of counter-terrorism.

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