



RCF /15/44 (2022)

The role of African women in combating terrorism and violent extremism

*Resolution adopted by the 44th Conference
(Victoria Falls, 10 november 2022)*

The Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the African Parliamentary Union, meeting on 8 November 2022 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe,

Considering that the role of African women in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism on the continent is paramount;

Noting that a better understanding of the causes of this scourge and the methods of operation of extremists will make it possible to find creative approaches to combat the phenomenon

Considering the need to set up security cooperation mechanisms, at the bilateral and/or multilateral levels, to draw inspiration from best practices in the fight against terrorism,

Considering also that African women have difficulty making their voices heard and are sometimes caught between terrorism and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism,

Convinced that African women can play an major role in the fight against terrorism and constitute an instrument of peace, given the important role they play in the family circle and in society as a whole

Aware that African women are called upon to strengthen their involvement in civil society, as well as in cultural and social organizations that promote a culture of living together and tolerance

Recalling resolution 2242 (2015), "on women, peace and security, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism", adopted by the Security Council at its meeting of 13 October 2015

Taking into account the three areas of focus of the 2016 International Women's Day (IWD) on "the context of increasingly radical and violent extremism":

- Raising awareness about the different roles and perceptions of women and men in the context of violent extremism and radicalization;
- Identifying and supporting women's experiences and capacities as architects of peace and drivers of change;
- Recognizing and celebrating, on the occasion of IWD, the efforts by many women to assert their power by saying "no" to radical extremism;

Recommends:

1. Harnessing women's leadership as a critical resource for peace;
2. Involvement and participation of women in efforts to prevent and combat terrorism;
3. Reviewing and implementing all counter-terrorism measures in accordance with the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination;
4. Achieving gender equality, empowering women and promoting women's participation in security decision-making processes;
5. Developing policies and processes that take into account gender issues;
6. Taking into account UN Women's approach to promoting counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, as well its strategic plan 2018-2021 on prevention of violent extremism;
7. Adopting an economic and social approach aimed at fighting inequality, poverty and social insecurity, through an initiative for human development that will undeniably prevent latent radicalization among disadvantaged or marginalized populations;
8. Improving infrastructure (roads, health, education, etc.) and access to basic services, by proposing plans to support economic activity and entrepreneurship among young people and women;
9. Creating an environment in which sustainable development will be strengthened, aiming to limit the influence of extremist groups on youth, their support and recruitment;
10. Improving the security of cross-border regions that are ideal havens for armed terrorist groups;
11. Capacity-building and exchange of best practices, particularly with respect to inter-agency cooperation among African states;
12. Coordination of national policies, information sharing and identification of best practices;
13. Pursuing terrorists within and across borders to disrupt support networks, prevent planning, travel and communications, and access to funding and materials used to carry out attacks;
14. Implementation of counter-terrorism strategies on a continental and global scale; this strategy does not exclude the development of regional strategies that are more adapted to the realities of the area;
15. Development of multi-sectoral (security, governance, development) and multi-dimensional approaches; coherent involvement of all existing programmes, bodies and institutions of the African Union in its efforts to curb the terrorist threat;

16. Improving border controls and reducing the mobility of terrorist groups by fully involving African civil society, including women, and coordinating their actions in the area of prevention and fight against terrorism;
17. Coordination of the African Union's action plan on counter-terrorism with the efforts undertaken by the United Nations in the framework of the global counter-terrorism strategy;
18. Building the capacity of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT);
19. Representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and settlement of disputes;
20. The provision of human and financial resources to the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) as well as to the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), both organs which work with parliaments in the prevention and fight against terrorism;
21. Taking into consideration issues related to women, peace and security in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism;
22. The implementation of measures by African States and the United Nations system to ensure the participation and authority of women and women's organizations in the development and implementation of strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism;
23. Collaboration between the APU and the AU to ensure that women are given slots in AU peacekeeping missions;
24. Negotiations between the APU and the AU to ensure women's representation in negotiations concerning countries that are currently suffering from terrorist attacks, thus giving women the opportunity to engage in peace processes;
25. APU's support to the AU for the establishment of a single African market. This is to help reduce the socio-economic causes of terrorism as many Africans will be engaged in trade. The abolition of visas by some African countries for Africans is to be commended;
26. The organization of a general debate (of one hour) on terrorism and violent extremism so that the message is received in the country.