R /154/44 (2022)

Economic and social consequences of terrorism on populations: building their resilience

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

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 44th Conference on 9-10 November 2022 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe,

Considering that peace, security and stability are essential prerequisites for sustainable economic and social development, and that there can be no development without peace and no peace without development,

Deeply concerned by the extent of the impact of terrorism and violent extremism on the already very difficult living conditions of the populations in some regions of the continent,

Aware of the existence of a sharp increase in hunger in these regions over the last decade, aggravated by terrorism, which exacerbates the difficulties faced by the States concerned, regional organizations and technical and financial partners in responding to food insecurity in a structural and sustainable manner,

Noting the failure to find a long-term response or holistic vision to food insecurity, due to both structural and cyclical factors,

Regretting that priority is generally given to the security or migration issue when people are rather faced with the issue of hunger,

Noting that the deterioration of the security situation in some African countries and the proliferation of armed groups with various claims are contributing to the worsening food and nutritional insecurity situation for thousands of people, forcing them to move to other regions or to already overcrowded urban centres; a situation which has led the States concerned to adopt strong security approaches in the face of the " threat of terrorism",

Stressing that insecurity on the roads limits the mobility of people and negatively impacts agricultural and pastoral activities as well as trade activities,

Aware of the suffering endured by the populations that are victims of terrorist acts and forced to move to relatively safe havens,

Stressing the difficulties faced by school children and young people to continue their education without falling victim to terrorism in their regions and without the risk of being forcibly recruited by terrorist groups or being abused,

Stressing also the central role played by women in the family and community, as well as that of young people, as economic actors and social cohesion agents who can contribute to mitigating the effects of terrorism on the living conditions of the population,

Aware that women, as vulnerable persons, are undoubtedly the greatest victims of terrorism, given their status as mothers, wives and economic agents, and that terrorism leads to greater numbers of people living with disabilities,

Emphasizing the leading role played by women and young people in defining counter-terrorism strategies and in determining measures to strengthen the resilience of populations affected by the attacks of terrorist groups,

Considering the need for an inclusive approach to bringing the authorities closer to the population and making citizens committed stakeholders in the fight against terrorism,

Emphasizing the importance of good governance in building the resilience of populations affected by terrorism,

Affirming that the systematic approach linking security and development may underestimate the importance of governance in building the resilience of populations,

Noting that large budgetary allocations are made to the military sector at the expense of the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby delaying their achievement, in particular the goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms by 2030, as well as the goal of eradicating hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture,

1. *Emphasizes* the promotion of resilience activities at the local level, based mainly, but not exclusively, on:

- Rehabilitation of ecosystems, job creation, support for agro-sylvo-pastoral production;
- Support for nutrition and access to basic social services such as education and health, as well as social safety nets;
- Strengthening early warning and food security measurement systems;
- Developing community infrastructure
- Promotion of the handicrafts industry and tourism
- Facilitating trade between African countries.

2. *Calls on* governments to take measures to assist victims of terrorism and internally displaced persons and refugees, in order to increase their resilience, by setting up a special support fund for them and enabling them to resume their economic and social activities and the education of their children;

3. *Urges* States to put in place a multi-sectoral and sustainable approach that strengthens the resilience of men and women to combat food and nutrition insecurity, through the following measures, which can be assessed:

- Streamline the various resilience initiatives related to food security for greater efficiency and results;

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- Devote at least 10% of national budgets to agricultural development, in line with the Maputo Declaration (African Union 2003), and 15% to health, in line with the Abuja Declaration (2001);
- Eradicate chronic hunger by 2025 (African Union, Malabo - 2014)

4. *Calls on* States and local communities to promote traditional cultural activities carried out by women and youth as a powerful vector of resilience against extremist currents advocating the eradication of people's traditional cultural and historical heritage;

5. *Calls upon* States to take initiatives to promote a culture of peace and dialogue, in particular by supporting local consultation and mediation processes, including traditional authorities, faith-based organizations and community associations; emphasis will also be placed on the promotion of diversity, respect and social cohesion, at the local and national levels, which is specific to the history and traditional values of population;

6. *Encourages* citizens to become involved in the fight against terrorism in Africa by setting up vigilante committees or self-defence groups, and calls upon States to provide them with the support and guidance needed;

7. Urges States to take measures for the reintegration of those who agree to lay down their arms by granting them amnesty and ensuring them the prospects of a better life, by creating disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) committees

8. *Calls upon* the various human development actors, including the private sector, to invest massively in building the resilience of populations to guarantee their long-term food and nutritional security;

9. *Encourages* States to promote the political inclusion of women, young people, and people living with disabilities, to involve them more in the decision-making process and in the elaboration of strategies to combat the terrorist threat as well as in the implementation of development plans;

10. *Calls on* States to put in place the necessary policies to promote the participation of young people and women and people living with disabilities, in economic activities, particularly in the agricultural sector, by promoting entrepreneurship through measures to facilitate access to microcredits;

11. Urges States, development institutions and donors to support the common activities of the population in the agricultural and livestock sectors, particularly through actions aimed at:

- Making agricultural inputs such as seeds available to households
- Providing the necessary assistance to family livestock in difficulty
- Promoting the development of income-generating activities, processing of agricultural products, livestock products and other artisanal activities;

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12.   *Calls on* States to intensify and continue their efforts to put in place food safety nets and social protection policies that are responsive to the shocks of the "terrorist threat";

13.   *Urges* States to facilitate the access of poor populations, particularly in rural areas, to basic social services, such as schools and health centres, drinking water supply and electrification networks, as well as transport networks, in order to strengthen their resilience;

14.   *Encourages* States to promote digitalization of all sectors;

15.   *Calls upon* States that have adopted a military approach to counter-terrorism and conflict resolution, which is evident in increased military spending, to ensure that they also invest in food security and the achievement of development goals;

16.   *Urges* governments to measure the impact of the security approach on social and development budgets in order to preserve their role in combating the multidimensional aspects of food and nutrition insecurity, on the one hand, and in other areas such as education and health, on the other. In a regional context where State budgets are limited, the fight against insecurity should not justify a reduction in budgets for social spending;

17.   *Invites* States to ensure the participation of local civil society organizations, in particular, women's organizations and producers' organizations, in the response to food crises, by building their capacities;

18.   *Calls on* the international community to review the aid system to ensure that it not only responds to immediate and emergency needs but is also directed towards sectors that are essential for reducing inequalities and as a preventive measure to help populations build resilience to potential threats, including "terrorism";

19.   *Urges* the international community and civil society organizations to ensure that development aid is not used for security purposes but is targeted to the needs of the most vulnerable communities;

20.   *Urges* parliaments to adopt laws against terrorist financing and laws that protect domestic investors;

21.   *Encourages* States to implement regulations on transhumance corridors commonly used by terrorists;

22.   *Invites* the coastal countries to create a platform to combat maritime piracy by pooling their resources;

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