African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism

Evaluation Missions to West Africa Member States



ACSRT team and the airport security taskforce team during a tour of the Banjul international Airport facilities

ursuant to counterterrorism continental and universal instruments, and in accordance with the ACSRT strategic programmme of action for 2010-2013, adopted by the African National Focal Points (FP) during their fourth meeting, held at the ACSRT's headquarters from 17-19 June 2010, a delegation of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) led by H.E Ambassador Francisco Caetano José Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Director of the ACSRT, including 5 experts in different areas of counterterrorism, undertook three (3) evaluation missions to Burkina Faso, 5 to 9 November 2012, Gambia, 26 to 30 November 2012 and Senegal, 3 to 7 December 2012 respectively.

These evaluation missions are undertaken by the African Union as part of an assessment programme financed by the European Union Commission (EUC) and are also conducted as a follow up to the decision on the prevention and combating of terrorism adopted by the 15th Or-



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dinary Session of the AU Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda, from 25 to 27 July 2010.

The primary purpose of these missions is to analyze the capacity of the abovementioned Member States to fulfill their commitments under the terms of the AU Plan of Action (2002) and to evaluate the capacities of the National Focal Points to prevent and combat terrorism.

Moreover these missions seek to develop recommendations on measures that the Member States should take in order to comply with their obligations under the AU Plan of Action (2002) and relevant AU decisions on the prevention and combating of terrorism and identify areas in which the three countries may require technical assistance.

During these missions the ACSRT delegation undertook on-site visits to border posts, airports, and other relevant facilities to assess the implementation on the ground.

The ACSRT team also held a series of discussions with the authorities of the three countries on counter-terrorism related matters, including radicalization and the deradicalization, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, terrorism financing, law en-

forcement and border control. These discussions helped the team to assess threats arising as a result of these countries' geographical positions, the rapid development of religious charities, the existence of networks involved in the making of true/ fake identification and travel documents, returnee hadists, radicalization and indoctrination of minors, across borders and the financing of terrorism. The discussions were also designed to identify the main challenges undermining the regions' capacity to effectively prevent and combat terrorism.



H.E. Ambassador Madeira and the Minister of foreign Affairs to Senegal



ACSRT Evaluation team during a site visit to Leopold Senghor International Airport, Dakar, Senegal

In this regard, it should be recalled that the ACSRT missions are to:

- 1. Complement international counterterrorism action by enhancing cooperation among African countries in the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- 2. Assist in the full implementation of international conventions on terrorism;

The ACSRT delegation has also handed a copy of the African Anti-terrorism Model Law to the authorities. This Law seeks to promote the implementation of the continental and international instruments on the prevention and

combating of terrorism at the national level. The ACSRT delegation equally informed Authorities of its forthcoming finalization by the AU Commission. Such legislation will guide Member States in de-

strengthening veloping, and/or updating their national legislation to better meet their international and regional obligations.

During its evaluation missions, the ACSRT noted that all the institutions visited were very aware of the terrorist threats facing the continent and have taken steps to adjust to this reality and successfully confront the scourge of terrorism. To this effect, progress is being made in order to harmonize legislation national and bring it in line with international counterterrorism instruments ratified by The Gambia. Similar efforts are also being made to bilateral, strengthen regional and international cooperation in the prevention and combating of terrorism.



ACSRT team in Ouagadougou

10 -11 December 2012

West Africa Evaluation Missions Workshop



Group Picture

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) convened a summative workshop on Evaluation Missions to West Africa from 10 to 11 December 2012 in Dakar, Senegal.

Participants to the meeting included representatives of the eight evaluated West African member states, namely Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and the European Union Commission Delegation to Senegal were also represented.

The two day-meeting was dedicated to sharing, amongst the participants, the findings and conclusions of the evaluation missions to East Africa and agreeing on the priority areas to be focused on.

The workshop was organized in the context of a European Union Commission (EUC)- financed assessment programme, covering a total of twelve (12) AU member states.

participants, after reiterating the need for customized, workable, and result-oriented responses, made the following recommendations among others:

On Enhancing Counterter-

rorism Legal Capacity:

Member States that have ratified the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, its 2004 Protocol, as well as the relevant international instruments;

Appeal to Member States to review their national counterterrorism legislations with the view to aligning them with the provisions of the AU Comprehensive Counterterrorism Model Law;

Conclusion of extradition and mutual legal assistance agreements, where necessary, and adoption or review of related legislation to enable Member States to cooperate effectively;

On Combating the Financing of Terrorism (FT) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML):

The need to further strengthen the capacities of the national Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs);

The ACSRT, the Inter-Governmental Acton Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) are encouraged to develop typology reports on money laundering and terrorism financing.

On the National Focal Point Structure:

The need for countries to view counterterrorism Focal Points as established structures and not as individuals by establishing National Fusion Centers;

Expand the Focal Point's prerogatives to include other terrorism-related crimes given the multidimensional nature of terrorism and its interaction with other crimes.

On Information Sharing

Develop centralized computerized national databases which can be accessed by services responsible for the prevention and combating of terrorism and transnational organized crime.

On Countering radicalization

With the view to dealing with the growing presence and the increased influence of extremists and fundamentalist rhetoric on local populations, the participants agreed on the need to:

Develop programmes that are resilient to extremist rhetoric;

Encourage scholars and theologians to lead the intellectual debate and dialogue with a view to addressing the factors that influence radicalization and extremism.

On Border Control and Management

Establish national databases and ensure interconnectivity between the border posts and the Central databases.

On enhancing Technical Capacity:

the need to provide continuous training and development of technical and operational capacity of member states in the areas of intelligence collection and analysis, critical infrastructures and sensitive sites protection, justice delivery, intervention unit, countering violent extremism and the provision of adequate equipment.

On the respect of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism:

Participants reaffirmed that counterterrorism measures must fully comply with international human rights law, refugee law as well as criminal and humanitarian laws.

The participants reiterated the commitment of their respective Member States.

In this connection, they underscored the importance of timely information sharing, the submission of annual reports to the Council via the ACSRT on measures taken to prevent and combat terrorism, the notification of the Council, especially through the ACSRT information system, of all terrorist activities taking place and as soon as they occur.

The participants urged the African Union Commission, through the ACSRT, to:

Continue and scale up their efforts in order to build the capacity of Member States to fight against terrorism, more specifically legal and judicial capacities by developing the African Arrest Warrant (AAW) to arrest persons accused or convicted of terrorist acts and by drawing up a list of individuals, terrorist groups and entities as well as devising a strategy to promote the implementation of these tools;

Continue consultation and coordination with international partners to provide technical assistance, build capacities and finance national and regional counter-terrorism strategies as well as initiatives, projects and programmes;

Strive to broaden the provisions of resolution 1817 (2008) of the UN Security Council on individuals, groups, companies and entities which support Al-Qaeda to include other forms of drug and narcotics as well as those involved in drug trafficking products regardless of where they find themselves.

Finally, The participants commended the work conducted by the ACSRT assessment team and expressed their wish for these evaluation missions to be conducted on a continued and frequent basis.

18 -20 November 2012

6th Meeting of National and Regional Focal Points of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism



The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism **(ACSRT)** and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) jointly organized the 6th Meeting of the ACSRT Focal Points from 18th to 20th November 2012 at the ACSRT headquarters in Algiers.

The meeting sought to analyze ACSRT's annual activity report and discuss the "Connections that exist between Narco-Traffic, other Organized Crimes and Terrorism in Africa."

The meeting gathered the ACSRT's National and Regional Focal Points from 38 African countries and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). In addition, representatives from the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), CISSA, African Mission in Somalia's Mission (AMISOM) and the National Defense College (NDC) of Nigeria.

The three days meeting allowed the ACSRT National and Regional Focal Points (FPs), to be updated on the implementation status of its Strategic Plan of Activities 2010-2013 adopted during the 3rd Meeting of Focal Points, on the progress report regarding the operationalization of the ACSRT's Database and Early Warning System and the priority areas of the adopted strategic plan of activities.

The opening ceremony was graced by Mr. Rezag BARA, Advisor to the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, H.E Ambassador Ramtane LAMAMRA, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Major General Rachid LALLALI, the Director of the Directorate of Documentation External and Security (DDSE) of Algeria and Chairperson of CISSA, H.E Ambassador Francisco Caetano José MADEIRA, AU Commission Chairperson's Special Representative for Counterterrorism Cooperation and Director of the ACSRT, Mr Isaac A MOYO, Executive Secretary of CISSA, and members of the Diplomatic corps.



Ambassador madeira, ACSRT Director and Mr Isaac A MOYO, Executive Secretary of CISSA

The official opening ceremony was preceded by the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between ACSRT and CISSA and between ACSRT and the Nigeria National Defense College (NDC).

the Focal Points commended the ACSRT and the AUC for the efforts made thus far and welcomed the recent measures taken by the Commission to enhance the effectiveness of Africa's counterterrorism response, in particular the establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) Counterterrorism Subcommittee, the finalization of an African antiterrorism Model Law, in addition to the efforts undertaken to provide technical assistant to Member States and regional Focal Points.

They also acknowledged the need for the ACSRT and the AUC to pursue and intensify their efforts, towards building member States counter-terrorism capacity more specifically the legal and judicial capacities through the elaboration of the African Arrest Warrant (AAW) for persons charged with or convicted of any terrorist act, the African List of Terrorist Individuals, Groups and Entities and the strategy to promote the implementation of such tools.

Other recommendations that emerged from



Rear Admiral Thomas Jonah LOKOSON, Commandant of the National Defence College of Nigeria and Ambassador Madeira

the meeting include, among others, encourage the ACSRT to pursue dialogue with other stakeholders, continue consultation and coordination with international partners to deliver technical assistance, build capacity and fund on going national and regional counterterrorism strategies, initiatives, projects and programs.

Following the review of the security situation in the continent, the participants suggested to develop a convention against narco-terrorism and adopt a resolution on narco-terrorism, which should envisage appropriate mechanism to assist member states to combat drug trafficking and organized crime as well dispatch a delegation from the UFL and CISSA in addition to ACSRT to meet with members of the UN Security Council on one hand and with the AU Peace and Security Council on the other, to brief them on the reality of Narco-terrorism and transnational organized crimes and the threat they represent.

Finally, Participants expressed appreciation and thanks to the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and to the ACSRT for sponsoring the event and for the warm and generous hospitality provided to them during the three days of deliberations.

22-24 November 2012

Seminar on "Radicalization, Violent Extremism and Deradicalization in East Africa and the Horn of Africa Experiences and Perspectives"

A seminar on "Radicalization, Violent Extremism and Deradicalization in East Africa and the Horn: Experiences and Perspectives" was held from 22 to 24 November 2012 in the conference hall of SIYONAT hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The seminar was organized by the African Union (AU) through the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) with support from the government of Spain and the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC).

Participants included representatives of governments, the civil society and religious leaders from the following countries: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda. Presenters during the seminar consisted of academics, researchers and practitioners drawn from Algeria, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, African Council of Religious Leaders and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) was also represented.

The Somali delegation which was expected to take part in this workshop had to apologize for not turning up due to seat unavailability in the plane.

The workshop was opened by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counterterrorism Cooperation and Director of ACSRT, H.E. Ambassador Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira.

Terrorism is complex because it is more than a ordinary criminal act undertaken for personal gain or collective material benefit, the Ambassador said, and urged participants to continually identify gaps in the fight against terrorism and to propose new, practical and realistic solutions to address it.

Various themes were then successively presented by researchers, academics and practitioners on the following topics:

- A. Understanding the concept of radicalization;
- B. Understanding de-radicalization: definition and contemporary theories, approaches and experiences in different countries;
- C. Understanding the fight against radicalization and the role of religious leaders;
- National, regional and international efforts undertaken to counter radicalization and violent extremism;
- E. Respect of human rights in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism.

These sessions helped to clarify a number of concepts, definitions and terminology on terrorism, radicalism, fundamentalism and extremism which assisted in understanding of the dialect involved in radical discourse and calls for the commission of violent acts.

Sharing of national experiences helped participants to draw on best practices in countries such as Algeria, Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda; and to strengthen the capacity of practitioners in countering radicalization and

violent extremism.

Participants unanimously recognized the need to develop a commonly accepted definition of terrorism. They agreed that radicalization may be understood as the process that gradually leads individuals to opt for the use of violence in the definition of their relationships with their social environment and deradicalization can restore social harmony, and ultimately recover those who were recruited in various terrorist movements.

participants made the following recommendations:

To governments:

- Implement the recommendations of Resolution 1624 (2005) of the UN Security Council on incitement to violence.
- Make provisions for prevention of radicalization a priority in national programmes;
- Involve the civil society, media and religious associations in public awareness campaigns against the radical discourse of terrorist groups;
- Work to build resistance among the population and build the capacity of society to counter violent extremism and radicalization;
- Mobilize media in the region to counter extremist rhetoric which incites people to violence and help in the dissemination of awareness messages and speeches against radicalization;
- Involve religious and traditional leaders in the fight against terrorism;
- Establish a communication base to intensify the exchange of information and experience between the institutions involved in the countering of radicalization;
- Promote dialogue amongst religions,

- amongst communities as well as amongst religious and community leaders;
- Support inter-governmental mechanisms and instruments that promote inclusiveness, stability, reconciliation and peaceful development at the regional and subregional levels;
- Strengthen democracy, respect human rights, promote peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms as effective ways to prevent terrorism;
- Strive to eliminate injustice, social inequality, exclusion and marginalization which are among the root causes of terrorism, through development measures that take particular account of the initiatives of the civil society;
- Promote cooperation programmes aimed at strengthening the justice systems of the regional Member States.

To the ACSRT:

- Work with the IGAD-SSP and the East Africa Community (EAC)to elaborate guidelines against radicalization;
- Harmonize concepts and notions with a view to developing awareness programmes for the public and religious leaders;
- Develop a catalog of best practices of States in the East African and Horn of African region and other regions in Africa in countering radicalization and violent extremism;
- Support Member States in developing strategies for countering radicalization and violent extremism;
- Step up awareness-raising on the need to counter radicalization and violent extremism in other regions of the continent by organizing seminars and other similar activities.

26-27 November 2012

EU Workshop on Effective Programming for Countering Violent Extremism



From right to left:

Ambassador Madeira, AU Special Representative in Charge of CT and Director of the ACSRT, Mr. Jacob Illum Head of the Department for the Prevention in the Danish Police Intelligence, Mr. Ali Saif Head of Political Development Forum in Yemen, Mr. Martin Mbugua, Director of the IGAD Early Warning and Response Mechanism

n 26-27 November, 2012, the European Union hosted a workshop on "Effective Programming for Countering Violent Extremism," in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop brought together key experts and practitioners on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), as well as third party representatives from the Horn of Africa, including Yemen, Pakistan and Ambassador Francisco Caetano José Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Director of the ACSRT to represent the African Union.

The workshop was convened by the EU to address the nexus between development and security, and focus in particular on how the EU can better understand and support third countries in their efforts to address violent extremism and recruitment. In addition, the workshop outcomes provided guidance for the Participants included EU officials from the development and security sectors, as well as experts across a range of relevant issue areas, including governance, the media, faith-based organizations and counter-radicalization and programme evaluation.

The EU has drafted Strategies for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, and for Pakistan. These include considerable focus on preventing recruitment and violent extremism, and an appeal the EU to undertake programming that engages local government and nongovernment stakeholders. This workshop allowed participants to discuss steps that can be taken to implement these action plans and consider how this might be done in a way that promotes local ownership and is mindful of the need to allocate limited resources in a cost-effective and strategic manner.

During the workshop, participants were invited to consider possible areas of intervention: messaging, media, education, supporting local, cultural and religious traditions, and de-radicalization, with particular focus on the two regions under consideration.

Addressing the participants, **H.E Ambassador Francisco Madeira**, emphasized the threat of radicalization and violent extremism, and the pernicious role of these two phenomena in the development of terrorism. He recalled the efforts of the African Union in the fight against these phenomena, citing the Dakar and Tunis Declarations, as well as the 1999 Convention of the Organization of African Unity on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the 2004 Additional Protocol relating thereto.

The Ambassador added that terrorism is complex because it is more than a ordinary criminal act undertaken for personal gain or collective material benefit. It is a combination of ideological factors, social grievances, conflicts, political and socio-cultural frustrations, personal or collective identity claims, misinterpretations of religion and history, economic and social marginalization, exclusion and other aggravating factors that pose challenges which the society struggles to correctly and effectively address.

These challenges form centres from which violence, instability and recurrent insecurity spread, thus producing conditions which contribute to the creation of a conducive environment for radicalization, an environment in which movements, ideologies and extremism mutually reject each other, an environment in which mutually exclusive philosophical, political, religious, ethnic and violent nationalists theories develop; an environment in which terrorism takes root and strives becoming prosperous and attractive to some ill-intentioned individuals, who make it their policy instrument of choice.

Ambassador Madeira also urged participants to continually identify gaps in the fight against terrorism and to propose new, practical and realistic solutions to address it. He however stressed that military, police and intelligence measures, while necessary, are not sufficient to counteract the phenomenon of terrorism. This is because disruption of activities of terrorist groups and prosecution of suspects and perpetrators of criminal acts have proven insufficient. It has now become necessary and urgent, he said, to adopt a holistic approach, which combines the security approach with preventive actions in other domains including education, the promotion of democratic values, economic development and the fight against corruption.

Finally, ambassador Madeira highlighted the importance of dialogue amongst religions, communities and religious and community leaders and also urged governments to involve the civil society, the media, religious leaders, community leaders, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), think tanks, universities and research centres in countering radicalization.

31 October 2012

Memorandum of Understanding On Cooperation Between The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) And The Southern African Development Community Secretariat (SADC)



From left to right: Mr Dahmani, Head of Database Unit, ACSRT, Dr Mokete PHERUDI Acting head of SADC REWC, Ambassador Madeira, ACSRT Director and Mr Mounir LALLALI Deputy Director, ACSRT

n the 31st of October 2012, H.E. Ambassador Francisco Madeira Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Director of the ACSRT and Dr. Mokete PHERUDI, Acting Head of Southern African Development Community, Regional Early Warning Centre in the Directorate for Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the ACSRT Headquarters in Algeria.

The new engagement is aimed at building collaborations in areas of common interest such as promoting and developing Regional and National Counterterrorism Strategies, promoting and developing counter terrorism capabilities, encouraging **SADC** Member States' counter terrorism focal points to share information on counter terrorism amongst each other and with the ACSRT, establishing of secure communication lines on counter terrorism between the **SADC** Regional Early Warning Centre (REWC) and the ACSRT Situation Room through the ACSRT CT-Early Warning System, organizing and conducting joint special training programmes for SADC Member States, conducting joint-evaluation mission

SADC Member States to assess their CT Capacities and implementation status of the 2002 AU Plan of Action for the Prevention and combating of Terrorism and strengthening cooperation between SADC REWC and ACSRT including possibility of seconding SADC personnel to ACSRT and vice versa.

Furthermore, the **MoU** is aimed at developing and strengthening the two organs' cooperation in order to benefit from complementarities, promote coherence, coordination and alignment within the African Union System.

The Southern African Development Community **(SADC)** is an inter-governmental organization headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana. Its goal is to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 15 southern African states. It complements the role of the African Union.

This strategic partnership between both organs will no doubt further enhance and increase the developmental effectiveness of both organs' efforts to achieve their common goals and objectives.

19-21 December 2012

Second High Level Media Workshop on the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)



Group Picture

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, represented by Ms. Nashwa Kamel, took part in the second High level Media workshop on the African Peace and Security Architecture in Dakar, Senegal.

The Workshop was Organized by the African Union (AU) Directorate of Information and Communication (DIC), in collaboration with the Peace and Security Department (PSD) in partnership with the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) through its office in Dakar and the Francophone Research Network on Peace Operations (ROP)

The workshop sought to:

 Support dialogue between the AU and the media fraternity in popularizing the functioning of the APSA and its various components in conflict prevention, management and resolution;

- Provide reliable information to journalists working on issues of peace and security on the continent and equip them with necessary skills to better deal with issues of high complexity;
- Contribute towards improving the quality of factual media coverage on the work of the AU in the area of peace and security.
- Deepen information on the operation of the African Standby Force;
- Promote the African Standby Force (ASF) and its future goals through the African and international media; and
- Finally, encourage the consolidation of the culture of peace in the media and African societies.



The workshop's participants included African journalists experienced in both international and African issues related to political, peace and security affairs on the continent, communication officers from the Regional Economic Communities and AU Regional Mechanisms, as well as some AU bodies, such as the Pan African Parliament, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and AUC Departments and partners.

During the first workshop in November 2011, journalists and communication officers received extensive training on the APSA components. The 2012 sessions devoted most of its attention to the state of peace and security in Africa, the concept and progress made by the African Standby Force, the progress made by AMISOM, the Regional Cooperation initiative for the Elimination the Lord's resistance army, the African—led International Support mission to Mali, the role of the AU in the situation between Sudan and South Sudan as well as the African Solidarity Initiative and the AU Border Programme.

A continental network of journalists for peace and security (Net Peace) was launched during the first High level Media workshop on APSA in November 2011.

Net Peace is an interface between the AU and the African media and the diaspora regarding the outreach activities of the AU in the maintenance of peace, security and stability on the continent. Its primary objective is to contribute to the entrenchment of a culture of peace in the African media fraternity.

This second High Level Media Workshop on APSA reviewed the challenges and prospects for the Net Peace after one year. It also issued a Final Declaration and recommendations, in which members of Net-Peace reaffirmed their collective commitment to the Addis Ababa Declaration to work for the entrenchment of a culture of peace in Africa and urged all media to contribute thereto; called upon Netpeace to be a strategic partner of Member States of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms in the overall effort to ensure positive change on the continent and urged African Union Member States to support NetPeace activities.

The workshop also reviewed the Action Plan adopted in November 2011 and adopted a new one for 2013. The new action plan focused on two major areas:

- a. Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring recommendations; and
- b. Recruitment of new members of Net Peace.

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