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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Sixth Ordinary Session  
24 – 28 January 2005  
Abuja, Nigeria**

**EX.CL/146(VI)  
Original: English**

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND HIGH-  
LEVEL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE  
PREVENTION AND COMBATING  
OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA**

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING  
OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa was held at the Palais de Nations, Club des Pins, in Algiers, Algeria, from 13 to 14 October 2004. The Meeting coincided with the launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), provided in Paragraphs 19 to 21 of the AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa. The Meeting was convened in follow-up to decision EX.CL/Dec.126(v), adopted by the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004.

2. The purpose of the Second High-Level Meeting was to follow-up on the first Meeting, in particular, it was aimed at reviewing the implementation of the AU Counter-terrorism instruments and to take stock of the measures taken, the challenges encountered and to determine the best way forward in the implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa. It was also aimed at providing an occasion for the official launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

3. The Meeting, which was chaired by the Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs in charge of Africa and the Maghreb region of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, brought together about four hundreds (400) participants including Ministers and senior government officials in the fields of defence, security, judiciary, and legislature, from forty-one (41) Member States, the AU Commission, Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS), Regional Bureau of Interpol for East Africa (EAPCCO), and international partners, as well as representatives from relevant international institutions and civil society organizations.

**III. PROCEEDINGS AND DELIBERATIONS OF THE MEETING**

4. During the Opening Ceremony, statements were made by the representatives of AU Partners including the United Nations, the European Union, and the United States, as well as by the Representative of AU Member States and the Representative of the AU Commission.

5. In his keynote address, President Bouteflika emphasized the need for strengthening international partnerships and UN-AU cooperation in combating terrorism and the full implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and other international instruments on terrorism. He urged Member States to strengthen cooperation and harmonize their legislations on the prevention and combating of terrorism.

6. During the deliberations, it was stressed that terrorism constituted a global security threat, which required sustained international cooperation and an integrated approach to combat and eradicate the phenomenon. The importance of the African Center as a mechanism that would bring a new dynamism in collective efforts aimed at preventing and combating terrorism on the continent was also emphasized. Delegates pledged their full support to the Centre. They also highlighted the need to address the underlying social and economic factors, which sometimes give rise to terrorism, stressing, in particular, the fact that military measures alone are inadequate to prevent and combat terrorism.

#### **IV. INAUGURATION OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY AND RESEARCH ON TERRORISM (ACSRT)**

7. The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ASCRT) was officially inaugurated by President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA of Algeria. The Launching Ceremony was held in the presence of Representatives of Member States, AU Partners including the Director-General of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), who pledged to extend full support to the Centre.

8. In marking the conclusion of the Launching Ceremony, the President of the Republic officially handed over the keys of the Centre to the AU Commission.

#### **Current Status of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism**

9. The Government of Algeria has provided a total land area of 36000 m<sup>2</sup> for the Headquarters of the Centre. Currently, the Centre has a three-block premises occupying a land space area of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of the total 36000 m<sup>2</sup>. An assessment of the needs of the Centre for its initial takeoff indicates that the Government has covered most of the fixed costs of running the Centre such as premises, utilities, furniture and transportation facilities for the Centre.

10. The main challenges for the initial takeoff of the Centre, however remain in the following areas:

- appointment of the Interim Director of the Centre as recommended by the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting;

- recruitment of staff to kick start the work of the Centre;
- purchase of additional office equipment including computers, softwares, office utensils, etc.; and
- provision of a budget for the initial year (2005) of running the Centre including its activities such as meetings, missions, and envisaged workshops.

11. I would also like to inform Council that, in follow up to the request of the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting, I have proposed a budget for the initial takeoff of the Centre for 2005, which was approved by the 6<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of Council, held in December 2004. Furthermore, the Commission has elaborated a draft document on the Structure and Modalities for the Functioning of the Centre (see Annex II). I have also requested the Government of Algeria to designate an Interim Director, pending the finalization of a permanent structure and modalities for the functioning of the Centre.

#### **IV. OBSERVATIONS OF THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING**

##### **A) Measures Taken by Member States**

12. Based on the reports presented by Member States on measures taken and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and the AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, the Meeting noted that some Member States have taken a number of measures to prevent and combat terrorism, notably in the following areas:

- *Establishment of legislations:* Some Member States have adopted new Bills or strengthened old Bills in their penal codes to deal with different aspects of terrorism and other transnational organized crimes. Some Member States also indicated that, in conformity with the 1999 OAU Convention and the Plan of Action, they have harmonized their national legislations with the Convention and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols thereto, as well as with other relevant international instruments;
- *Executive Actions and the Creation of Anti-Terrorism Units:* The Executive Branch of national government in some Member States has taken a series of measures to enforce national counter-terrorism legislation and obligations emanating from international engagements, as well as extra-security measures taken within the purview of national security and safety of citizens. Some governments have also encouraged the creation of

civil society groups, organizations or associations with the objective of preventing and combating terrorism and other crimes through education and dissemination of information;

- *Financing of Terrorism:* Some Member States indicated that they have adopted new security measures and streamlined the activities of their financial institutions including national and regional central banks (in the case of a common currency) to control the movement of capital and other financial transactions, in order to prevent money laundering, counterfeiting and other means used by terrorists to finance their activities. Some Member States have also streamlined the activities of charity organizations to ensure that charity is not abused or misused;
- *Regional and International Cooperation:* Member States have strengthened regional cooperation particularly within the framework of regional organizations and institutions dealing with issues of defence, security and development. Some have concluded bilateral agreements on border security, extradition, information-sharing and mutual legal assistance.
- *Signature and Ratification of Regional, Continental and International Instruments:* It was noted that Member States have signed and ratified many of the regional and continental instruments dealing with security, particularly the 1999 OAU Convention. Many have signed and/or ratified most of the 12 international instruments for the prevention and combating of terrorism. It was noted however, that only 7 Member States had signed and ratified all the 12 international instruments.

## **B) Challenges Encountered**

13. Member States also highlighted the following challenges encountered in the implementation of the Convention and the Plan of Action:

- i. lack of adequate resources to carry out effective counter-terrorism measures and to strengthen or establish specific institutions to deal with the scourge;
- ii. porosity of borders with difficult terrain or topography and climate, that hamper efforts to establish rigid security controls;
- iii. disparity in national counter-terrorism legislations and legal systems, which hinder effective cooperation and exchange of information and legal mutual assistance;
- iv. the highly confidential nature of intelligence and the execution of anti-terrorist operations often serve as a roadblock for effective information sharing;

- v. lack of effective coordination at the regional and continental levels; and
- vi. lack of training and technical equipment to enforce border security.

### **C) Recommendations Made by Delegates at the Meeting**

#### **General Recommendations**

14. During the two-day Meeting, participants focused their discussions on two main themes: "Strengthening of Regional and Continental Cooperation in the Implementation of the 1999 Algiers Convention and the Plan Of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism," and "Strengthening International Partnerships in Preventing and Combating Terrorism." The following recommendations, among others, were made:

- i. partnership in combating terrorism should be genuine and translated into concrete action;
- ii. synergies in building the gap between terrorism and organized crime including the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and drug trafficking should be emphasized, and addressed in a comprehensive approach;
- iii. the AU Partners should provide Member States with the necessary technical assistance to develop infrastructures and equipments that enhance the scanning of vehicles, and other containers at seaports to detect concealed explosives, arms, ammunition and drugs;
- iv. the AU should assist Member States develop a framework to facilitate communication among police in different countries in Africa and their access to databanks of criminals and terrorist groups;
- v. the AU and Partners should assist countries of the Sahel region and other regions with large and porous borders with difficult terrain, to develop mechanisms for joint transborder operations and regular patrols;
- vi. Member States should, with the assistance of Partners provide adequate training for police force in all aspects related to the prevention and combating of terrorism, including in particular, bio-terrorism and terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction;
- vii. Member States should enact anti-money laundering laws, and a common framework at the continental level for combating money laundering and illicit funds;

- viii. the United Nations should speed up the process for adopting an international definition of terrorism, such a definition must distinguish between actions of people struggling for self-determination and naked acts of terrorism;
- ix. the United Nations and AU Member States should advocate the establishment of an International Solidarity Fund for the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- x. Member States should aim at becoming parties to and fully implementing all the continental and international instruments on the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- xi. the international community should adopt a common code of conduct for the prevention and combating of terrorism. The AU should take the necessary steps to convene a meeting to elaborate and international Code of Conduct;
- xii. the AU as well as Member States should strengthen the involvement of the banking system in the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- xiii. Member States should strengthen/adopt legislations to protect women and children against acts of terrorism where they do not exist;
- xiv. transparency should be ensured in counter-terrorism actions and there should be full cooperation among Member States and between African Countries and Partners;
- xv. efforts aimed at preventing and combating terrorism should not be limited to military measures but should also include social policies that address the underlying factors that sometimes give rise to terrorism such as poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment, political and ethnic cleavages, human right abuse, religious radicalism, and state failures;
- xvi. Member States should comply with the new prescriptions, standardized frameworks and measures enacted at the international level aimed at reinforcing the maritime transportation domain from being used as weapons of terrorism or being victims of terrorist attacks;
- xvii. Member States should ensure that all alleged terrorists are penalized independent of nationality or locus of perpetration;
- xviii. Member States should be encouraged to dismantle and not to pursue programmes related to the development of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, it was emphasized that Member States should play an

active role in efforts aimed at preventing terrorists and other non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;

- xix. AU Partners and the AU should organize periodic joint seminars/workshops and conferences in all aspects related to the prevention and combating of terrorism.

### **Recommendations Relating to the Effective Functioning of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism**

15. During the discussion on the Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, participants underscored its importance and vital role in the promotion of stability and security in Africa. An appeal was made to AU Partners to support the Centre both politically and materially to ensure its effective functioning. The Partners responded positively with a pledge to support and work closely with the Centre. The following recommendations were made:

- i. the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism should establish contacts and work in close collaboration with similar regional and international centres/institutions;
- ii. modalities should be established to enable Member States have equal access and opportunity of benefiting from the activities of the Centre, particularly in the area of training and preventive measures;
- iii. Member States and sub-regional institutions should appoint Focal Points to liaise with the African Center;
- iv. The Centre should promote respect of human rights in the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- v. The Centre should play a catalytical role in the implementation of international and continental counter-terrorism instruments;
- vi. The Centre should help develop an analysis of the compatibility and the substantive differences between the International instruments and AU instruments on terrorism;
- vii. The African Centre should be action oriented in carrying out its activities;
- viii. In order to ensure its effective takeoff before permanent arrangements are finalized, the Chairperson of the AU Commission should authorize the Government of Algeria to designate an interim Director for the Centre, pending the decision on the structure and modalities for the functioning of the Centre by the policy Organs of the African Union; and that



- ix. The Chairperson of the Commission should propose a structure, annual budget and the modalities for the functioning of the Centre for consideration and approval by the policy Organs of the Union.

**VI. OUTCOME OF THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING**

16. After two days of intensive discussion on various aspects related to the implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, delegates adopted a Declaration (see Annex I), defining the best way forward.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

17. The Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa marked a very important step in the commitments of African countries to prevent and combat terrorism. It provided a unique opportunity for Member States, two years after the adoption of the Plan of Action and the entering into force of the 1999 OAU Convention, to review the progress made, exchange views on the challenges encountered, as well as share best practices and define a common programme of action for the way forward in the implementation of these instruments.

18. In light of the foregoing, I wish to request Council:

- to endorse the Declaration and Recommendations of the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting;
- to take note of the observations and recommendations made at the Meeting;
- to approve the draft Document on the Structure and Modalities for the Functioning of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism;
- to welcome the launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism and request the Chairperson of the Commission to, in liaison with Member States and AU Partners, continue to take all necessary measures for the effective functioning of the Centre; and
- to urge Member States and Regional Mechanisms and other stakeholders to fully and in concrete terms implement the Declaration and the recommendations of the Meeting.

**ANNEX I**

**DECLARATION OF THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE PREVENTION AND  
COMBATING OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA**

**ALGIERS, ALGERIA**  
**13 - 14 OCTOBER 2004**

**Declaration of the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the  
Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa**

We, the representatives of the Member States of the African Union, meeting in Algiers, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2004, on the occasion of the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, in the presence of the Africa's partners, to review the progress made and exchange views on the best way forward in the implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and its Protocol thereto, as well as the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa. Our meeting coincided with the historic launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, which was graced by the presence of H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, whose comprehensive opening statement inspired our meeting, and which we have adopted as one of the documents of the Meeting.

We reiterate our deep concern over the fact that terrorism has not significantly receded in spite of the ongoing global counter-terrorism campaign. Recent global terrorist attacks around the world including in Africa call for tougher measures and a more consolidated international cooperation. In this regard, we stress the imperative for Member States to act with resolve and strengthen cooperation among them in all aspects of the prevention and combating of terrorism, and particularly to scrupulously implement continental and international instruments;

We underscore the need to differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate struggles of peoples for liberation, self-determination, freedom and independence, as recognized under international law.

We recall all the relevant decisions adopted by the policy Organs of the African Union, stressing the importance to effectively implement the 1999 OAU Convention and its Protocol thereto, and the Plan of Action. At its Fifth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004, the Executive Council, in its decision, EX.CL/Dec.126 (V), mandated the Second High Level Intergovernmental Meeting to evaluate the progress made and to decide on the best possible follow-up. The council also decided that the Meeting should coincide with the launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism;

We call upon the Commission of the African Union to convene regularly the High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. In this context, we further invite the Commission to convene the Third High Level Intergovernmental Meeting.

In line with the mandate given to the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting and in order to mark the historic launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), We:

**I. Launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism**

**Welcome** the establishment and launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, in Algiers, Algeria, as a significant achievement in our collective efforts to outlaw and eradicate the scourge of terrorism;

**Express** our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, for having kindly accepted to preside over the inaugural ceremony of the Centre during which he handed over the keys of the Centre to the AU Commission;

**Express** also our thanks and appreciation to the Government of Algeria for the generous support and facilities, in particular, the infrastructures provided to host the Centre, and Commend the Commission of the African Union for the various efforts made in liaison with the Government of Algeria to establish and operationalize the Centre;

**Recall** all the relevant decisions adopted by the policy Organs of the African Union, particularly, Assembly/AU/Dec.15 (II), EX.CL/Dec.13 (II), EX/CL/Dec.82 (IV), and EX.CL/Dec.126 (V), relating to the establishment and operationalization of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT);

**Reiterate** that the Centre is a structure of the Commission of the African Union and the Peace and Security Council(PSC), which shall serve to centralize information, studies and analyses on terrorism and terrorist groups and develop training programs by organizing, with the assistance of international partners, training schedules, meetings, and symposia;

**Urge** all Member States of the Union to extend full cooperation and support to the Centre as well as take active part in its activities, and Further Urge those that have not yet done so to establish, as soon as possible, national Focal Points to liaise with the Centre;

**Invite** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to submit proposals, in consultation with Member States, on the structure and modalities for its effective functioning, for the consideration by the relevant Policy Organs of the Union. In the interim period, we **Further invite** the Chairperson of the Commission to work out a provisional arrangement in consultation with the host country, to ensure the operationalisation of the Centre as soon as possible;

**Request** the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare a provisional budget of the Centre for 2005, for consideration by the forthcoming Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council, scheduled for November 2004;

**Appeal** to Africa's Partners including international organizations, institutions and similar Centres around the world to provide support to the Centre and establish networks for information sharing, training, research and joint activities.

**Recommend** to the AU Commission, pending the appointment or recruitment of the Director of the Centre in accordance with the procedures of the Commission, to request the government of Algeria to provide an Interim Director-General so that the Centre can become immediately functional.

## **II. Status of Implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa**

### **a) Ratification of Continental and International Instruments**

**Underscore** the importance for all Member States to sign, ratify or accede, as the case may be, to the 1999 OAU Convention and to all regional and international instruments relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism and Urge Member States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede, as the case may be, to these instruments.

**Take note** of the reports presented by the Commission of the African Union, Member States and Regional Economic Communities on the measures taken to implement the 1999 OAU Convention and the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa. We note that some African States have already put in place national legislations or some form of laws for dealing with issues relating to terrorism, others have made important strides in establishing the institutional frameworks for the prevention and combating of terrorism;

**Commend** the initiatives taken at the national, regional and continental levels in the implementation of the Convention and Plan of Action, and commend, in particular, those African countries that have ratified and those that are in the process of ratifying all continental instruments and the twelve (12) international Conventions and Protocols on the prevention and combating of terrorism;

**b) The Protocol to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism**

**Welcome** the adoption of the Protocol to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union;

**Emphasize** the value added and importance of the Protocol for the effective implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention;

**Appeal** to all the States Parties to the 1999 OAU Convention to sign and ratify the Protocol as soon as possible;

**Urge** the Commission of the African Union to take all the necessary measures to ensure the speedy entry into force of the Protocol, including undertaking consultations with Regional Economic Communities to define roles and strategies in the implementation of the Protocol.

**c) The Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa**

**Take note** of the measures taken by the AU Commission to ensure implementation of the Plan of Action;

**Emphasize** the fact that the Plan of Action provides the most viable and comprehensive strategies for the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa, particularly in the areas of police and border control, legislative and judicial measures, suppression of the financing of terrorism, exchange of information, and coordination at the regional, continental and international levels. However, we note that Member States have not fully exploited its provisions and recommendations;

**Urge** the Commission of the African Union to draw up a roadmap indicating priorities and timeframes in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

**Urge** Member States to fully implement the provisions and recommendations contained in the Plan of Action;

**Reiterate** the importance of the establishment, by the commission, under the aegis of the Peace and Security Council, and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Algiers Plan of Action, a single African list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts;

**Take note** of the Consultative meeting held concurrently with the Second High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism

between Security Services of some Member States, and welcome the recommendations adopted by the Meeting;

**Underscore** the importance of such meetings for Inter-African cooperation and international partnership and **Encourage** other sectors particularly the Judiciary, Finance and Customs to organize similar meetings aimed at enhancing coordination in their activities;

#### **d) Regional Cooperation**

**Underscore** the importance of Regional cooperation in the prevention and combating of terrorism and particularly in the implementation of continental and international instruments, and stressing, in this regard, intra and inter-regional cooperation, in facilitating exchange of information, mutual legal assistance, concluding extradition agreements and complementing the actions of Member States;

**Encourage** Regional Economic Communities and African Regional Bureaus of Interpols and any other relevant institutions and organizations to establish Regional Focal Points on terrorism, to facilitate coordination at the continental and international levels;

**Take note** of the initiatives taken by some countries to establish national and regional focal points on the prevention and combating of terrorism;

**Urge** Regional Economic Communities to coordinate their activities with the Commission of the African Union in all aspects of the prevention and combating of terrorism, particularly within the framework of the Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;

**Encourage** Member States, within a regional framework, to enter to bilateral, and/or multilateral arrangements aimed at strengthening trans-border cooperation, particularly in the areas of intelligence and border surveillance;

**Invite** the International Community to support the efforts at the national and regional levels to address hot bed of tension and to combat other factors that lead to or provide haven for terrorists.

#### **e) International Cooperation and Partnerships**

**Take note** of the Statements made by international partners and institutions and **Acknowledge** the centrality of international cooperation and the need to build partnerships in the fight against terrorism, and **Appreciate** their high-level participation at the meeting and their interest in working with African countries in the prevention and combating of terrorism and other transborder crimes;

**Call upon** Member States to continue to strengthen cooperation with the international community and contribute to the efforts of the international community to prevent and combat terrorism in all its aspects;

**Commend** Africa's partners and institutions including the CTC, UNODC, IMF, World Bank, Commonwealth, la Francophonie, IMO, WCO, INTERPOL and many others for the useful technical assistance programmes they have, so far, made and continue to make available to Member States;

**Underscore** the crucial need to strengthen technical assistance particularly in the field of training and equipment (hardware and software) in all areas in the prevention and combating of terrorism;

**Further underscore** the importance of convening an international conference to prepare a code of conduct to combat terrorism at the international level, in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.14 (II) adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003.

### **III. Motion of Appreciation to the Host Country**

**Express** our profound gratitude to the people and Government of Algeria for the warm welcome and generous hospitality they accorded to us during our stay in Algiers.

**Algiers, 14 October 2004**



**ANNEX II**

**DRAFT**

**MODALITIES FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AFRICAN  
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY AND RESEARCH ON  
TERRORISM (ACSRT)**

**DRAFT****MODALITIES FOR THE  
FUNCTIONING OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY  
AND RESEARCH ON TERRORISM (ACSRT)****I. ESTABLISHMENT**

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (hereinafter referred to as the Centre) is established as constituted under Section H, Paragraphs 19 to 21 of the AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and pursuant to the relevant decisions adopted by the policy Organs of the Union including in particular, Assembly/AU/Dec.15 (II); EX.CL/Dec.13 (II); EX/CL/Dec.82 (IV); and EX.CL/Dec.126 (V).

**II. HEADQUARTERS**

The Headquarters of the Centre shall be in Algiers, Algeria. Once operationalized, the African Union shall enter into a Host Agreement with the host country based on the practice and principles of the African Union and the international rules governing such agreements.

**III. STATUS AND LOCUS OF OPERATION**

1. The Centre shall be a structure of the Commission of the African Union, to strengthen the capacity of the Union to deal with issues relating to the prevention and combating of Terrorism. It shall function as a research centre of excellence in matters concerning the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa.
2. The Centre shall serve the interest of the African Union in providing expertise in matters relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa.
3. The Centre shall be guided by the objectives and principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its Protocol thereto, and the Plan of Action adopted in September 2002, and other relevant instruments and decisions of the Union, as well as the Charter of the United Nations, and other relevant international legal instruments that African countries have acceded to.
4. The Centre shall develop its own curriculum and programme of activities for each year.

5. The Centre shall function in coordination with National Focal Points designated by Member States.

#### **IV. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Centre is to contribute to and strengthen the capacity of the African Union in the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa, with the ultimate objective of eliminating the threat posed by terrorism to peace, security, stability and development in Africa. To this end, the Centre shall serve to centralize information, studies and analyses on terrorism and terrorist groups and develop training programs by organizing, with the assistance of international partners, training schedules, meetings and symposia.

#### **V. FUNCTIONS**

1. Pursuant to the purpose stated in Section 4 above, the functions of the Centre shall include but not limited to the following:

- (i) assist Member States of the African Union in developing strategies for the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- (ii) establish operating procedures for information gathering, processing and dissemination;
- (iii) provide technical and expert advice on the implementation of the African Union counter-terrorism regimes, in particular, the 1999 OAU Convention and its Protocol thereto, the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, as well as on the updating and strengthening of policies and programmes of the Union relating to counter-terrorism;
- (iv) develop and maintain a database on a range of issues relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, particularly on terrorist groups and their activities in Africa. Such a database as well as analyses shall be accessible by all Member States of the Union;
- (v) promote the coordination and standardization of efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism;
- (vi) initiate and disseminate research studies and policy analyses periodically, based on the current trends, and/or on the demand of Member State(s). The Centre shall publish, periodically its research and analyses, in an "African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism";

- (vii) develop cooperation and assistance programmes with similar and/or interested institutions at the national, regional, continental and international levels, in the areas of research, information gathering and analyses on issues relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- (viii) undertake research and converging studies on other global security problems with links to terrorism, which pose a threat to peace and security in Africa;
- (ix) develop capacity for early warning to encourage early response, integrating the concept of Preventive Management of Crisis;
- (x) provide technical and expert advice on how best Africa can contribute in a more meaningful way to the international campaign against terrorism, particularly the implementation of relevant international instruments by Member States of the African Union;
- (xi) undertake studies and make recommendations on strengthening and standardization of legal norms and cooperation in matters of information-sharing, mutual assistance, extradition, police and border control (including land, maritime and air) in Africa;
- (xii) conduct studies and analyses on the best strategies and methods for suppressing the financing of terrorism;
- (xiii) organize workshops, seminars, symposia and training programs for strengthening knowledge and skills in the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa;
- (xiv) submit annual reports on its activities to the Chairperson of the Commission. The annual report shall include a financial statement on the activities undertaken in the previous year and the budget of activities envisaged for the next fiscal year.

2. The Centre may also carry out such duties as may be assigned to it by the Commission of the African Union on matters relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa.

## **VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

1. Given the sensitive nature of the issues the Centre will be dealing with, and in order to safeguard its credibility, the Centre shall maintain a degree of confidentiality and tight security procedures,

in the collection and dissemination of information and data on terrorism.

2. The Centre shall ensure that the information it publishes or disseminates is reliable and verifiable.
3. The Centre shall be guided by the academic and ethical code of conduct for research and analysis.
4. The Centre shall organize regularly, symposia, at the level of all Member States to raise awareness, address the prevailing challenges, and to promote efforts aimed at preventing and combating terrorism in Africa.

## **VII. COMPOSITION & STRUCTURE**

1. The Centre shall be headed by a Director. The Director shall report to the Chairperson of the Commission through the Commissioner for Peace and Security. The Centre shall comprise of the following sections/units:
  - Administration and Finance;
  - Database and Analysis;
  - Programmes and Training;
  - Operation and Research.
2. The Director shall be assisted by an Advisory Board, appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission.
3. The Centre shall be equipped with a Library, technical/electronic equipment (hardware and software).
4. The Centre shall work out a detailed Organigram of its structure to be approved by the relevant policy Organs of the Union.

## **VIII. FUNDING**

1. The Centre shall be funded from the regular AU budget. However, the Centre may, in liaison with the Peace and Security Department, also raise funds through extra-budgetary sources, to fund its activities.
2. The Centre shall prepare and submit its annual budget to the AU Commission for consideration and approval by the relevant policy Organs of the Union.

**IX. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

The conditions of work and terms of Service, including remuneration of Staff of the Centre shall be based on the AU Staff Rules and Regulations.

2005

# Report on the outcome of the second highlevel inter-governmental meeting on the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa

African Union

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