

# INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

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# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The impossible definition of a multifaceted phenomenon
- ▶ An attempt at a definition: Use of terror for political, religious or ideological ends (definition deliberately left vague)
- ▶ From a national to an international agenda
- ▶ Internationalization and/or regionalization of security responses
- ▶ Increase in small groups and terrorist attacks on the continent strengthens serious concerns
- ▶ UN, EU, AU, RECs and African Nations offer various solutions
- ▶ Since becoming the epicenter, Africa is trying to respond to the challenge
- ▶ Assistance from the international community, but not without consequences.

# Importance of the fight against terrorism in Africa

- ▶ Historical and socio-political trajectory of each country determines its strategic choices
- ▶ Terrorism in Africa is becoming more complex, transnational and is constantly changing
- ▶ Every terrorist attack creates a climate of fear and psychosis
- ▶ Growing links between terrorist groups, secessionist movements and criminal networks
- ▶ National responses should start with national strategies
- ▶ Measures are often punctual and reactive
- ▶ Despite the initiatives of the countries engaged in this struggle, the results are slow in coming
- ▶ Fortunately, some subregional and regional initiatives are beginning to produce results (efforts to counter Boko Haram and Al-Shabbab).

# Impact on Relations with International Partners

- ▶ New International Order: International Response to an International Threat
- ▶ Unwavering commitment to strengthen international cooperation
- ▶ Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) established by the Secretary General in 2005
- ▶ UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in resolution 60/288 from September 8, 2006
- ▶ Actions aiming to strengthen the cooperation at the national, sub regional, regional and international levels
- ▶ USA, EU, China, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Israel, etc. “cooperate” with Africa

# Impacts ... more

- ▶ In recent years, West Africa and the Sahel have attracted more attention from US, EU, China and other countries
- ▶ Numerous forums for dialogue on counterterrorism (Dakar, Marrakech, etc.)
- ▶ Creation in June 2013 of a platform for exchange of information and experience between national coordinators from all regions of the world
- ▶ **Advantages:** Intelligence sharing, Capacity building in terms of logistics and personnel, etc.
- ▶ **Disadvantages:** "Cooperation" has a price: Countries do not have friends but interests.

# Actions Led by AU and RECs, and their impacts

- ▶ OAU adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in 1999: Definition **terroriste act** and not **terrorism**
- ▶ AU Action Plan for the prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa in 2002
- ▶ Promote practical cooperation through creation of ACSRT
- ▶ May 2013: UN reminds Africa of the need to "lead the fight on several fronts"
- ▶ The RECs have all developed regional strategies addressing counter terrorism
- ▶ Programs with external assistance but without prior strategies
- ▶ Now, many countries are developing their national strategies..

## Actions led ... and their impacts ... more

- ▶ North Africa: Algeria, pioneer in the fight, since the 1990s
- ▶ IGAD: Capacity building program in 2006
- ▶ Anti-terrorist strategy of ECOWAS, in February 2013; ECCAS, November 2012; SADC, August 2015
- ▶ Unfortunately, common approach to the threat in the subregion poses some problems.
- ▶ Criminal networks seem to be a step ahead of the individual nations and their regional organizations.
- ▶ **Advantages:** Better cooperation at the sub-regional and regional level, bringing "enemy" countries closer together, contributing to regional integration, etc.
- ▶ **Disadvantages:** Loss of control over sovereignty, Excuse of authoritarianism, Settling of accounts between security and intelligence services, etc.



# Expectations and Best Practices from International Cooperation

- ▶ Terrorism is common enemy number one, yet there is no consensus on its definition
- ▶ Terrorism is a reality and a serious threat to peace and human security
- ▶ Variable geometry of international reactions against terrorism
- ▶ Differences in the perception of the threat do not promote sharing and pooling
- ▶ Gravities of sovereignty and exaggerated nationalism
- ▶ Inevitable tensions between the pressures of domestic policy and the dynamics of regional integration
- ▶ Effects of underdevelopment and poverty + insufficient security response
- ▶ Economic marginalization and disinvestment of states = Illegal activities including terrorism.

# Conclusion

- ▶ The fight against terrorism is an everyday concern
- ▶ Establish effective national strategies: **Prevention** based upon **intelligence** (Experience of Côte d'Ivoire: Grand-Bassam, March 2016)
- ▶ Essentially, this will involve:
  - ▶ conduct an investigation of economic and financial crime supporting terrorism, such as sources financing terrorism
  - ▶ consider the creation of specialized units to fight against terrorism,
  - ▶ establish a regional institutional platform for information exchange, as well as cooperation and collaboration between the different security and intelligence services
  - ▶ and create a network of national liaison officers responsible for the fight against multifaceted crime and terrorism in Africa
- ▶ Consider the setbacks of "cooperation" at the sub-regional, regional, continental and international levels.

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**

**QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS?**