INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

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SUMMARY

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- Importance of the fight against terrorism in Africa
- Impact on Relations with International Partners
- Actions led by AU and RECs, and their impacts
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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, REC 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.
Terrorism is a 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 sovereignism 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?