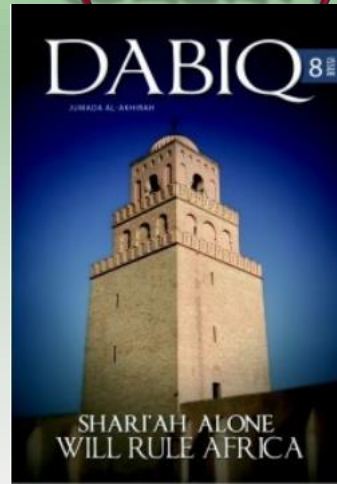# Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme (CAERT)

Regional Perspectives on National PCVE & CT Strategies

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(ACSRT)

The Development of the AU Approach

Over the years, the Union has made sustained efforts to respond to the various manifestations of this threat and has been able to fashion initiatives that takes into consideration the particular context and challenges.

Member States, individually and collectively through the Union, and with the support of the Commission, have taken various efforts to address the problem of terrorism and associated challenges.

Since 1992 a comprehensive normative and operational counter-terrorism framework has been developed.

African Union CT Framework

- 1992-concrete awareness of terrorism in Africa. Adoption of a resolution on enhancing cooperation among member states to fight extremism;

- in 1994 at Tunis, the adoption of declaration on the Code Conduct for Inter-African relations and cooperation against fanaticism;

- Organization of the African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa (1999);

- Dakar Declaration Against Terrorism (2001);

- AU Plan of Action on the on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa (2002);

- Protocol to the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of terrorism in Africa (2004);

- Establishment of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (2004)

- African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact (adopted in 2005- entered into force 2009)

Understanding the AU CT Role

- The AU has the primary responsibility for coordinating and harmonizing CT measures in Africa

- Promote international cooperation as a key strategy for the prevention and combating of terrorism

- Assist Member States in obtaining technical assistance and help Regional Mechanisms on need basis to identify CT resources, including financial assistance

- Establish a continent wide database and information network with national, regional and international focal points on terrorism

- Facilitate information sharing and exchange of experiences and best practices

- Build and maintain the political momentum to raise maximum awareness on CT issues and to ensure that such issues are given the necessary attention at the national, regional and continental levels.

- Complementing the activities of Member States and Regional Mechanisms

- This role is aimed at achieving best results in the following areas: dissuasion, denial, and sustaining a broad base international cooperation.

Role of Regional Mechanisms

- Play a complementary role in the implementation of AU CT regimes

- Help to promote and ensure cooperation at the regional level

- Harmonize and coordinate national CT measures in their regions

- Develop and maintain mechanisms to assist their member States to implement regional, continental and international CT standards

- Develop and maintain a regional database

- Liaise with the Commission in developing CT measures.

- Complement national efforts

AU CT Mechanisms & Initiatives

- Establishment of the ACSRT
  - CT-Early Warning System (including Data base and Secured Communication System, Alerts and Analysis)
  - National and Regional Focal Points (adoption of a Code of Conduct/ 11 FP Meetings)
  - Evaluation Missions
  - Criminalization of Payment of Ransom
  - AU Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Model Law
- Nouakchott and Djibouti Process
- Promotion and creation of Fusion Centers
- AMISOM/LRA/MISAHEL/Multinational *Joint* Task *Force* (MNJTF)
- UFL/CEMOC
- Designation of AU Chairperson's Special Representative in Charge of CT Cooperation
- Establishment of the PSC- Counter Terrorism Committee
- Launching of AFRIPOL

AU CT- CPVE Approach

- Promoting holistic, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial approach to Counterterrorism, Counterradicalization, prevention and countering violent extremism :

  - it cuts across multiple areas of government action, bringing counterterrorism officials into contact with a range of civil society actors that were perhaps beyond the scope of counterterrorism activities until relatively recently.

  - terrorism prevention efforts mobilize new implementing agencies across government, engaging a new range of nontraditional interlocutors outside government and extend counterterrorism activities to a series of policy domains and physical spaces not previously impacted by considerations of national security.

AU CT- CPVE Approach

- Promoting of whole of society whole of government approach;

- Assistance in the preparation, review and updating of National and regional CT- PCVE strategies and associated plans of actions;

- National Workshop on *Addressing the Root Causes of Violent Extremism: A Human Security Response Approach.*

- Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa (2015);

- Launching of Community of bloggers, Journalist and researchers that report on CT and CVE;

- Development of Counter-narrative programs and trainings;

- Greater coordination between the different AU actors.

KAIPTC — where peace begins

ACSRT/CAERT — African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism

FINAL REPORT

GHANA WORKSHOP ON ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM: A HUMAN SECURITY CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
Accra, Ghana
7 - 8 November 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violent extremism constitutes a threat to security in Africa. This is the consequence of the presence and activities of terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al Mourabitoum, Boko Haram in West and Central Africa, Al Shabab in East Africa and the presence of cells of the Islamic State in North African countries of Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia among others. These groups have repeatedly launched devastating terrorist attacks which includes the September 2013 attack on West Gate shopping mall in Nairobi Kenya, Nyanya attack and abduction of 276 Chibok girls in northeast Nigeria in April 2014, killing of 147 undergraduates at Garisa University Kenya and bombing of target in Cameroon, Uganda, Somalia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt among others. The consequences of these attacks remain enormous to human security. Fear and insecurities, breakdown of social cohesion in several communities escalated and public confidence in government dwindled. In this context, it became imperative that concerted efforts be made at national, regional and continental levels to address the root causes of violent extremism in Africa.

The participants agreed that violent extremism threatened economic, social, political, personal and environmental components of security. The experiences of northeast Nigeria where forced migrations resulted to internal displacements and refugee syndromes remains instructive. They also agreed that the task of addressing the root causes of violent extremism in Africa requires a whole of society approach.

Key Recommendations
Deriving from the above observations, the workshop recommended the following among others:
a. Ensure that efforts at countering violent extremism interventions are informed by research;
b. Capacitation of government institutions to be able to effectively provide basic social services – education, health and job opportunities;
c. Strengthening of the mechanism for enhancing access to justice and rule of law;
d. Design, develop and deliver programmes that will enhance community resilience;
e. Need for the formulation and implementation of robust empowerment programmes for women and youth;
f. The need to properly contextualize and distinguish Farmer/Herder conflict from terrorism;
g. Setting up of trauma counselling centres close to communities affected by violent extremism;
h. Institutionalisation of mechanisms of community policing as force multiplier for enhanced intelligence gathering in crime management;
i. Engaging local communities in the design and implementation of counter violent extremism initiatives;
j. ECOWAS and the ACSRT should assist Nigeria in the implementation of its national counter terrorism and counter violent extremism strategy.

Some Concrete examples

- The African Union has thus initiated a number of measures to assist Member States in this regard.

- Since 2012 the ACSRT started paying attention to counter-radicalization, counter-violent extremism and de-radicalization.

- Organized seminars and workshops:

  – Radicalization/extremism and Deradicalization/counter-radicalization and CVE

  – Witness Protection;

  – Protection of Informants and victims of terrorism;

  – The Use of internet for Terrorist Recruitment

  – On Disengagement and Rehabilitation of Violent Extremists in partnership with UNICRI

  – Seminars were organized for East African Member States and Central African Member States, culminating the decision of creation and the setting up of national and Regional CVE Task Groups,

- Assisted the Centre on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation (CGCC) and GCTF, in organizing the regional symposium on terrorism prevention and CVE in West Africa and the Sahel, 17-19 April 2013 held in Burkina Faso.

- Assisted the Sahel Region to establish what is known as the "*League of Sahel Oulemas, Scholars, Preachers and Imams*

- Evaluation Missions to 18 MS, thus far

- Development of CVE Implementation Matrix

- 1st Symposium of Victims of Terrorism

- Launching of Victims of Terrorism network

- Launching of CVE Regional Observatory

- Establishment of CVE National Working Groups

- In Somalia- countering radicalization and Al-Shabaab's violent rhetoric and agenda is also one of the very important goals of the African Union peace-keeping mission in Somalia - AMISOM. Engage Imams and religious scholars in sensitizing local communities and providing a counter-narrative to violent extremism. In this respect, mosques and Islamic schools, or *Madrassas*, are being rehabilitated, as part of the mission's quick-impact projects, to provide a platform for community mobilization, reconciliation and peace building.

Other AU Efforts…

- The AU has recently taken a number of initiatives in addition to AU CT Model Law for the improvement of legal framework:

  – Continue to work on the establishment of the African Arrest Warrant (AAW), the African passport stop list, and

  – the finalization of Model Conventions on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance agreements.

  – Promoting the establishment of Judicial Regional Platforms to strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters.

  – Develop guidelines for the establishment of integrated, inter-agency Fusion Centers

  – Elaboration of Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and People's Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa, developed by the ACSRT and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights

  – Implementation of UNSC Resolution 2178 (2014) on FTF

THE AFRICAN
MODEL ANTI-TERRORISM LAW

FINAL DRAFT AS ENDORSED BY THE 17TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
MALABO, 30 JUNE – 1 JULY 2011

Principles and Guidelines
on Human and Peoples'
Rights while Countering
Terrorism in Africa

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN
AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

National Counterterrorism Strategy

- **At the national level:** Strategy is implemented at different levels: the strategic (ministerial level), technical level (inter-ministerial committees), and operational level (law enforcement, antiterrorism units)

- Interagency cooperation are deemed good allowing capacity for early warning and rapid action. Nonetheless, the absence of a centralized, database, to which the different stakeholders could get access to prove to be one of the major obstacle to enhanced CT cooperation;

- The national counterterrorism strategy is not drafted clearly in a document rather it is the sum of the different mechanisms and procedures put together by the difference national stakeholders;

- **At the regional level:** the countries visited are committed to regional Continental cooperation through the different mechanisms through the exchange of information and provision of assistance

- The countries rely on informal and formal bilateral and multilateral security and legal cooperation as a basis for involvement interregional fight against terrorism

National Counterterrorism Strategy

- **At the Continental level:** the countries are members of the AU and are committed to the implementation of the AU PoA on the prevention of combating of terrorism (2002) as enshrined in the Algiers convention and are committed to the implementation of the African charter of Human and People's rights. They have all designated a national focal point to work directly with the center.

- 18 MS have been assessed by the ACSRT.

- **At the international level:** the countries are members of the UN and are signatory to several counterterrorism instruments; They have also submitted several reports on their implementation of their international obligations to the Security Council; most of the countries in the region have been assessed by CTED

Some Good practices

- **Countering Radicalization:** to counter incitement to terrorism motivated by extremism and intolerance and to prevent subversion of terrorists and their supporters against educational institutions and cultural and religious institutions a national rule was established by the Ministry of education and higher Education, on the program in schools and cultural and religious institutions. Inspectors of Education oversees the implementation of programs approved by the National Education.

- **Criminalization of Incitement to and glorification of Terrorism**: Algerian Penal Code. Use of former terrorists and extremists to counter-the narrative in render haram the actions of terrorists.

- **Intellectual Dialogue** which is based on the idea of pulling out the youth from *extremist ideology* through dialogue, debate and moderation with the objective of reintegrating them into the community.(Sudan)

- **Interreligious Dialogue**, "Union Fraternelle des Croyants- Fraternal Union of Believers"- *Dudal Jam Centre* in Burkina Faso, promoting peace through interreligious and cultural dialogue and fighting against preconceived ideas on culture & intolerance which are considered as the seeds of social discord

Some Good practices

- **Development of a communication strategy to counter radical narrative:** involving religious leaders, civil society, or any other stakeholder capable of preaching tolerance and countering messages of hatred towards the vulnerable layers of society, generally targeted by recruiters, to reduce incitement to terrorism motivated by intolerance and extremism (Senegal)

- **Ideological approach:** consist in organizing and implementing religious education programs to counter extremist rhetoric. (Mauritania)

- **Common Regional Approach:** *The League of the Oulemas, Preachers and Religious Leaders of the Sahel Countries*, sharing experiences, development of unique approach, sensitization programs/Caravans, TV and Radio Programs, engaging directly with terrorists in dialogue (Sahel Countries/Core Countries)

- **Surveillance and infiltration:** of religious NGOs that show radical signs or suspected of holding direct or indirect links to terrorist or organized crime networks (Conakry-DNSE)

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** the development of CVE Regional Observatories in continuous liaison with National CVE Working groups, whose role is to develop and implement National CVE Actions Plans, provide policy guidance and recommendations to government and identify priority areas and exposed populations

CVE Recommendations….

- Ensure intelligence is continuously being gathered and suspected radical elements closely monitored and investigated.

- The need for sustained counter-radicalization and rehabilitation programs

- The need to develop community programs for enhancing close relations between relevant authorities and community religious leaders.

- Train scholars and specialists to lead the intellectual debate and dialogue to address the factors that influenced the detainees in particular through the Communities, in which recruitment happened and Sheikhs who provided religious justification (fatwas) leading to extremism.

- The need to develop counter violent extremism awareness programs in schools, cultural centers and in particular in prisons.

- The need to development public resilience programs to extremist rhetoric.

- The need to put in place accreditation mechanisms for education programs, proposed by non-state educational institutions, and ensure monitoring of these.

CVE Recommendations.... (Continued)

- Enhance the role of the media in counter radicalization (radio and TV programs)

- Initiation of national reconciliation and dialogue

- The need to understanding that the war against terrorism is not only by countering extreme ideology in the Muslim community, but also by countering prevailing prejudiced views among non-Muslims

- Increased public education should be encouraged beyond the scope of academic circles alone;

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab

- Prohibit the use of media outlet by terrorists and extremist as a platform for extremist propaganda and discourse and glorification of terrorisms

- Promote and enable credible voices to be heard, who can undercut the appeal of violent extremism

THANK YOU

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