

COMMUNITY CHAPTER LEADERS' FORUM 2025 : CASE STUDY: Benin



➤ **FOR 18 YEARS: experiences enhanced through activities**

➤ **New ABECESA board 2022 :**

(activities : logo, registrations, visits, PS, PTA partnerships, new members database, communications plan, (inspired by **CCLF 2023**)

- **Working lunch 2022** (07/01 own funding)

- **Conference 2023** (08/31 - 09/01 with ACSS)



➤ **STANDING FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE:**

☐ **WITH HIGHLIGHTS BELOW:**

1. *Planning: Preparation and Organization*

2. *Event Management (Photos)*

3. *Evaluation – Lessons Learned and Perspectives*

PLAN



Working Lunch



PLANNING - PREPARATIONS & ORGANIZATION PRACTICES

- The conference is included in the 2022-2027 strategic plan and the 2023 PTA.
- Related meetings led to the establishment of three committees:

Coordination: Terms of Reference - Monitoring of preparations & conduct:

Context & Rationale: Current events & purpose of ABECESA

Objectives & Outcomes: Living together without conflict

Number of participants: 150 (including ten from outside)

Date & Location: Week of August 28 to September 2, 2023 in Cotonou

Organizer: Main ABECESA in partnership with ACSS

Funding: ABECESA, OMI, ACSS, PCS, SOBEBRA & BENAFRIQUE, others

Conference Structure:

- Visibility (presentation) of ABECESA
- Need: Context and Rationale
- Central Theme: **"Foundations and Implications of Violent Extremism Tending to Terrorism in West Africa: The Case of Benin"**
- Breakdown into 9 papers (appendix)

Scientific: Intellectual Preparation

Conceptual harmonization and modeling of EVT and associated concepts

Discussions on the genesis of EVT, its evolution, and its current characteristics

State of EVT in the sub-region and in Benin

Identification of issues and challenges

Sharing of prevention and control strategies and approaches in the sub-region

❖ Organization:

- Panels and communication
- Contact building
- Writing communications and speeches Protocol

Logistics: Costing, practical organization

Setting up the logistics system
Various negotiations (service contracts)

Booking venues and hotel rooms
Organizing the reception, transportation, and seating of foreign guests

Organizing coffee breaks, meals, cultural events & sightseeing tours, media coverage, beacons, badges, invitations, hostesses, security, secretarial services, etc.

Mobilization of office equipment
Payment for various services
Dismantling the system after the event



OPENING CEREMONY (SPEECHES)



IN A DEEPLY BENINESE CULTURAL SETTING



PRESIDENT, BENINESE SUPREME COURT



COM MOD PAR

FOLLOW-UP COMMUNICATIONS MODERATED BY



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COM

SPEECHES PRESENTED BY :



ABECESA



ACSS



NIGERIA



BURKINA FASO



TOGO



ABEGIEF/BENIN



ACSS



BENIN UNIVERSITY



GEM/GN /FAB/BENIN



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ICG/NIGER



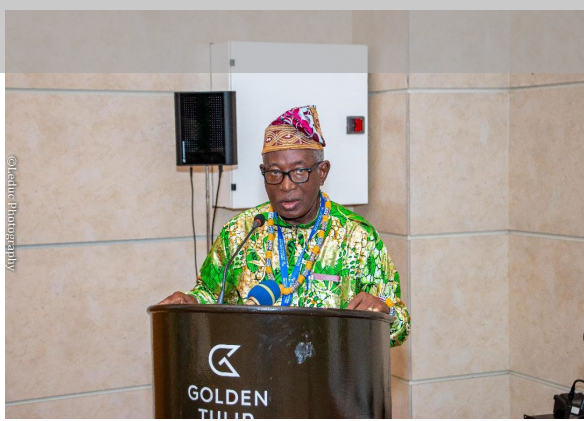
SP/CNLCREVT/BENIN

Panelists

PANELISTS IN THE PLENARY ROOM WITH A DELEGATION



CULTURAL GYMNASIUM CEREMONY



Registration ?

LESSONS LEARNED & PERSPECTIVES (=»2027)

- ❑ Use of on-site assessments and other discussions
- ❑ **Overly ambitious** (number of participants; number of communications; number of panels, etc.)
- ❑ Lack of guaranteed support
- ❑ **Challenge of financial independence**
- ❑ Lack of time for visits
- ❑ **Expanding invitations** to AO associations
- ❑ **Harmonization of contract procedures with ACSS**
- ❑ **Publication of communications**
- ❑ **More support from the US Embassy**

- **Finalization of the PSC network process and reflection on OSC contribution to the PLEVTV**
- **Twinning of associations in AO countries**
- **Sub-regional conferences on migration movements linked to the EVT - maritime insecurity, transnational crime, and WA geopolitics (ECOWAS-AES-BENIN)**
- **Formal strategic reunions with ABECESA**
- **Periodic thematic strategic cafés on current events in the world in WA Benin (in our offices/TV)**
- **Policy briefs or articles in various journals**
- **National tour in areas affected by the EVT**
- **Great Security Night**
- **Challenge of strengthening financial autonomy**

IN CONCLUSION

- ❑ The partnership with ACSS has contributed to strengthening ABECESA's capacities
- ❑ Several activities have been organized, including the 2023 conference, the flagship program, with:
 - Strong participation from ACSS, the US Embassy, and fellow chapters
 - Visibility on ABECESA
 - The challenge of functional autonomy, which prevents the organization from addressing the challenges mentioned
 - The search for and establishment of strategic partnerships at the national level
 - Desire for increased support from ACSS
- ❑ The discussions initiated in Cotonou deserve to be continued



THANK YOU

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

ANNEX :

CENTRAL THEME & COMMUNICATIONS

- **CENTRAL THEME: “FOUNDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM TENDING TOWARD TERRORISM IN WEST AFRICA: THE CASE OF BENIN”**

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 1- **“Foundations and Implications of Violent Extremism Tending to Terrorism in West Africa: The Case of Benin,”**

General (er) Etienne ADOSSOU

- 2- **“Concepts of violence, jihadism, terrorism, and diversity of conceptions of international security,”**

Ambassador Rogatien BIAOU

- 3- **“ECOWAS Strategy and Action Plan on the Fight against Violent Extremism Tending to Terrorism in West Africa,”**

Constant GNANCADJA, ECOWAS expert

4- “Root Causes of Violent Extremism Tending to Terrorism in West Africa” Panel

Dr BOUKARS of ACSS; Professor Nassirou BAKO ARIFARI; Special representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in West Africa and General Director of the National Agency for Civil Protection

5- “Issues and challenges of violent extremism tending towards terrorism in West Africa and Benin” Panel

Adamou MAMA SAMBO (HCcS) et Codjo ORISHA

6- “Challenges and issues of attacks by different groups such as: AQMI, GSIM, BOKO HARAM, in neighboring countries”

BF : Fatimata Myriam SAGNON VICENS and Sandrine NAMA ; Niger, General Amadou MOUSSA GROS and Ibrahim YAHAYA (Expert); Nigeria Division General SHEHU Ahmed Yusuf ; Togo, Michel Nakmak DOUTI



7- “Governance, Development, Rule of Law, Justice, Human and Peoples' Rights, and Violent Extremism Tending to Terrorism in West Africa” Panel

Professor Samson GUEDEGBE, and Magistrate CS Serge TCHINA, a representative of the US Embassy

8- : “The problem of strengthening civil-military relations in the fight against violent extremism tending towards terrorism” Panel

Dr Colonel Emile OUEDRAOGO

9- “Frameworks: analytical, strategic and operational for the prevention of violent extremism and the fight against terrorism in Benin” Panel

Dr Marcel BAGLO, General Director of the Beninese Agency for Integrated Management of Border Areas; CGP Louis TOKPANOU, Permanent Secretary of the National Commission for the Fight against Radicalization, Violent Extremism and Terrorism (SP/CNLCREVT); Colonel Faïzou GOMINA, Chief of Staff of the GN