



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

APU

R.142/39/16

THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN AFRICA

*Resolution adopted by the 39th Conference
(Rabat, 9 November 2016)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting at its 39th Conference held on 8 and 9 November 2016 in Rabat (Morocco),

Emphasizing the urgent need to wage a relentless war on all forms and manifestations of terrorism, which threatens peace and security in Africa and the world at large, through all means, and in keeping with international and regional instruments,

Highly concerned about the threat of terrorism in Africa, which has spread to other regions hitherto spared from it, and which are today facing armed terrorist groups and movements,

Convinced that education, mass information and political and economic governance gap as well as the lack of State authority in some regions of our countries create a breeding ground for terrorism in Africa,

Affirming that impoverishment, religious radicalism, civil, political and military conflicts, internal tensions, organized crime, particularly smuggling, drug and arms trafficking, maritime piracy, human trafficking, human organs trafficking and illegal migration, contribute to the emergence and spread of terrorism in Africa,

Reaffirming that there is no link between religions and terrorism,

Concerned about the facilities at the disposal of terrorist groups for obtaining arms and broadcasting their propaganda through the internet and social media,

Noting the existence of informal channels in African countries, which encourage the circulation of money for the purposes of money laundering and terrorism financing,

Noting also that terrorist groups are taking advantage of corrupt systems and using regular channels to launder their money,

Convinced that Parliaments and civil society have a crucial role to play in combating terrorism and eliminating its root causes, and promoting democracy, human rights, good governance and peaceful conflict resolution, as means of preventing terrorism,

Emphasizing the need for close cooperation between African countries and at the international level to combat terrorism,

Recalling its resolution adopted at the 37th Conference held in Rabat on 1 and 2 November 2014,

1. *Commends* the front lines countries and the international community for the efforts and sacrifices made towards the fight against terrorism;

2. *Urges* African States to continuously improve political and economic governance in order to eradicate the conditions which encourage the emergence and the spread of terrorism, by involving Parliaments and civil society in promoting peace and security and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa's Agenda 2063;

3. *Encourages* African States to promote democracy, the rule of law, the decentralization, peaceful transfer of power and human rights;

4. *Reaffirms* that the fight against terrorism should entail promoting cooperation, coordination and consistency of initiatives; combating corruption, dealing with youth unemployment, social exclusion, radicalism and extremism, fostering regional and international cooperation in the field of military training and intelligence systems in combating terrorism; and upgrading the operational capacities of the defence and security forces;

5. *Urges* African States to attach particular importance to the youth and women, and provide them with education and decent source of livelihood, by promoting employment and developing income-generating activities; and also to combat social discrimination and political exclusion;

6. *Requests* African States to factor activities aimed at combating social injustice and socio-economic marginalization into their socio-economic programmes;

7. *Calls upon* Parliaments and governments to promote decentralization, develop economic and infrastructural investments, so as to encourage people to settle in vast and under-populated areas of their territories and border regions;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen and/or update national laws which have an impact on combating and financing terrorism;

9. *Encourages* Parliaments to work together with their Governments to introduce legal and regulatory arrangements aimed at preventing and combating terrorism which is nurtured by organized crime, particularly kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and money laundering;

10. *Calls* for legal cooperation and sharing information as part of combating terrorism and implementing a security policy at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international levels;

11. *Urges* the media and civil society stakeholders to work in tandem with Governments and Parliaments to promote dialogue and national reconciliation as well as the values of tolerance and non-violence;

12. *Calls* for State action at the global level, aimed at implementing mechanisms to effectively combat cyber crime and step up the fight against terrorism on the web by preventing the dissemination of terrorist propaganda, through surveillance and enhanced cooperation with the internet giants such as Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo, and Google;

13. *Encourages* African States to give priority to peace and foster inclusive political dialogue and negotiation by involving Parliaments and civil society as a whole, and communities, to avert internal conflicts, promote peace, cohabitation as well as inter-faith, intra-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and tolerance;

14. *Encourages* States to ensure compliance with international law, particularly in the area of human rights, refugee rights, humanitarian law and non-intervention in internal affairs of States;

15. *Urges* all States in the world, particularly in Africa, to introduce prevention and monitoring arrangements aimed at ensuring that financial and banking institutions, economic ventures, organizations or other entities operating on their territory do not become means for terrorists to finance their criminal or money-laundering activities;

16. *Urges* Parliaments to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation in the area of combating terrorism, through the mutual exchange of information and experiences relating to national legislation on terrorism and organized crime;

17. *Urges* States in the world, particularly in Africa, to enhance their activities and cooperate effectively in surveillance of their territories and control of their land, sea and air boundaries in order to prevent the installation of terrorist training bases or to proceed to their destruction, and prevent any infiltration of arms, individuals or groups involved in the planning, organization and execution of terrorist acts;

18. *Calls* for the strengthening of inter-State and inter-community cooperation as well as coordination between the security services in the fight against terrorism;

19. *Reiterates* its call for strengthening mechanisms for preventing and combating terrorism, introduced by the African Union and the regional economic communities, such as the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Multinational Joint Task Force set up by the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin, the Regional Task Force in Central Africa, the Easter Africa standby Force, the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit and the African Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL);

20. *Invites* States to accelerate the process of ratification of the “ Charter on maritime security and safety and development in Africa” adopted in Lomé on 15 October 2016.
