

African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT)



2010-2012 ACSRT Evaluation Missions



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Creation of the Centre



- Established by the **AU Plan of Action (Algiers, September 2002)**
- Inaugurated on the **13th of October 2004**
- Signature of the **Host Agreement** between AU and the Algerian Government (7th June 2005)
- **Adoption of the Status** (July 2005, Syrte)
- **Adoption of the Structures** (Khartoum Jan 2006)

Missions of the Centre



Inspired by the OUA Convention (1999) and the Plan of Action (2002) and *fit into the spirit* of the UNSCR 1373.

Integrating the Concept of Preventive Management of Crisis

- I. **Develop and maintain a database** on a range of issues relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, particularly on terrorist groups and their activities in Africa, as well as on experts and technical assistance available;
- II. **Initiate and disseminate information, studies, assessments and analysis** about terrorism in Africa ;
- III. **Develop**, with the support and cooperation of international partners, **training programs** for the benefit of State Members of the AU

Legal Status of the Centre



The modalities for the functioning of the Centre were adopted by the African Union on the 2nd of July 2005 (Syrta, Libya)

- The Centre is a **structure of the Commission of the African Union**.
- The Centre is **headed** by a **Director**:
 - reports to the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union through the Commissioner for Peace and Security.
 - submits annual reports on the activities of the Centre to the Chairperson of the Commission, for consideration by the policy Organs of the Union.
- The Centre is **Mandated** to:
 - **Strengthen the capacity of the member states** of the African Union to deal with issues relating to the prevention and combating of **Terrorism**, in order to **complete the international action** .
 - **Help the full implementation of the international conventions** relating to the fight against terrorism.

Functioning of ACSRT...



- **The ACSRT is designed to function in a permanent and continuous relation with:**
 - the National Focal Points (NPs) from the Member States of the AU
 - Regional Focal Points (RFPs) representing the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
 - International Focal Points (IFPs)
- **in order to facilitate the timely exchange and sharing of information**

Information Process

Suppliers

Clients/
Consumers

FOCAL POINT

CAERT/ ACSRT

FOCAL POINT

INPUT

- National & Regional Assessment
- Legislation & Regulation
- Lists & Profiles
- Needs and Priorities
- Measures & Mechanisms
- Threat Assessment
- Experts and Expertise

Information Management Process

- Collection
- Consolidation
- Analysis
- Consultation
- Confirmation
- Dissemination

OUTPUT

- Studies and Analysis
- Status of threat
- Identification of Trends
- List of Recommendations & priorities
- Training Programs
- Data Base Feeding & Updating
- Plans of Action
- Publications

Description of the Evaluation Mission Project



- These missions will focus on both:
 - Strengthening the capacity of the Focal Points Structure as the Coordinating mechanism, and
 - taking stock of the States/RECs capacities to identify Technical Assistance needs,
- Provide recommendations, facilitate assistance provision and finally assess the implementation of the AU Plan of Action (2002).
- Prolonged exercise to the evaluation process of Regions started in 2007.
- Deepen the analysis and to take it to the level of the member states.
- The regional meetings identified a number of deficiencies:
 - such as lack of institutional organization,
 - lack of technical capacity (material and human),
 - lack of coordination;
 - the non-existence of proper legislation and
 - non-existence of dedicated anti-terrorism capacity...etc.,
- The necessity to assess and determine:
 - the status of the terrorist threat and vulnerabilities,
 - assess the status of implementation of the AU Plan of Action
 - assess the level of cooperation among Member States and Regional Mechanisms, and
 - finally the types and level of Technical assistance and expertise available and requested.

Duration of the Project and Pre-Requisites



- The duration of the project will be 3 years;
- Funded by the EU Commission
- Covering a Minimum of 12 Member States out of the 53 including their regional Mechanism;
- In order of priority identified by the Continental Threat and Vulnerability Assessment;
- MS that have ratified the AU Convention on the prevention and combating of terrorism (1999);
- MS that have designated a Focal Point

Objective of the Project



- The overall objective of this action is to support the fight against terrorism in the African continent.
- Specific objectives of the project are:
 - To further enhance ACRST's capacity to fulfil its mandate, in particular by strengthening cooperation and coordination between the ACRST and National and Regional Focal Points
 - To enhance Counterterrorism and /Combating Transnational Organized Crime networking and information exchange
 - To raise awareness and build understanding of AU Member States on the need to address the global scourge of terrorism through trans-regional cooperation and further promote cooperation between the ACRST and Donor Organizations to facilitate capacity building

Objective of the Project



- Assess whether deficiencies are attributable to assistance needs,
- Propose solutions to correct them
- Ideal means of holding discussions with all the local stakeholders in which assistance appears to be a priority need
- Assessing the capacities of Focal Points for assuming its role as per CoC
- Developing a Manual for the Establishment and operationalization of FPs
- Developing Standard Operating Procedures;
- Implementation of conclusions and recommendations in a pilot programme in selected priority countries and
- assist in developing an African Compendium of best practices and lessons learnt including the development of guidelines to operationalise CT coordination structures and
- inform the Centre's future Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

Outcomes of Missions



- Preparation of Report
- Submission of Report to:
 - The Visited Member State
 - African Union Peace and Security Commission,
 - Peace and Security Council,
 - UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the European Commission to facilitate technical assistance provisions to the visited member states.

Areas covered by the evaluation missions



1. The anti-terrorism legislation

- Offences; Sanctions;
- Territorial Competence;
- Criminal Procedures;
- special investigative measures;
- Legislation on weapons, explosives and hazardous materials; Legislation on asylum, refugees and immigration;
- Human rights safeguards...etc



2. Measures against assets used for criminal purposes

- Legislation anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism;
- Supervision of the financial sector; Control Structures of the financial system;
- Mechanisms of seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime...etc.

3. Efficiency law enforcement services

- Mechanism against terrorism;
- Coordination of services;
- Early Warning System;
- Methods for combating and preventing criminal activity related to terrorism...etc.

Areas covered by the evaluation missions



4. International cooperation

- Mechanism of international cooperation in criminal matters;
- Status of ratification of the anti-terrorist conventions;
- Terms and effectiveness of judicial cooperation;
- Terms and effectiveness of police cooperation;
- Modalities of cooperation with regional and international organizations.
- Territorial control



5. Control cross-border movement of persons;

- Inspection of cargo
- Mechanisms for emission and control of identity and travel documents;
- Methods of prevention and detection of fraud and counterfeiting.

6. Technical assistance Needs , possibilities and Good Practices



Some findings....



National Counterterrorism Strategy



- The four countries visited have adopted some form of national CT strategy which has evolved into a comprehensive program that takes into account all aspects of counterterrorism
- All countries have identified as main priorities the development and strengthening of their CT legislation with a view of meeting their international obligations (resolution 1373 requirements)
- This had led the countries to put in place committees to draft reports to the Security Council and other committees to review and adjust the existing laws
- It was noted that the countries possess a coherent counterterrorism strategy consistent with the multidimensional nature of terrorism which comprises of two aspects necessary to ensure success in combating terrorism namely prevention and repression
- The different national CT stakeholders cooperate and collaborate in either formal or informal mechanisms

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.
- **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; Three out of the four evaluated countries have been assessed by CTED

Exchange of information



- Countries place particular priority on the question of Cooperation through the exchange of information and sharing of intelligence
- Good relations of cooperation with neighboring countries and with other States in the region, through:
 - the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)/I-24/7
 - the Regional Bureau of Interpol,
 - the different African Chief of Police Cooperation Committees and
 - the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) in charge of customs intelligence
- Analysis and exploitation of intelligence is ensured by the Intelligence services who also are responsible for disseminating all information received from Interpol NCB to the relevant services.
- The National Police are responsible for CT investigations, repression and arrest given their judiciary mandate.
- No National centralized database which could be used by all the services in charge of counterterrorism services, as each service possesses their own database.





Border Control

- Generally, there are security deployments at most exit and entry points of the countries. The borders are manned 24 hours a day by police, immigration, customs and other security agencies.
- **Establishment of travel documents** – Most National Passports were improved to include advanced security features which make it difficult to forge. Progress is being made on the process of issuing Biometric National Identification Cards. However, entry visas can be issued at points of entry.
- **Organization of the border control services** - Control missions are clearly defined within and between the police and customs services.
- **Effectiveness of the control of persons at borders** – implementation of the US *Personnel Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System* (PISCES) and I-24/7 for monitoring entry and exit to limit terrorist movements. however, this system is yet to be extended to all other border posts and is not physically connected to the national databases;





Some Good practices

- **Border Control:** Watch Listing of Aliens and Suspected Persons (WASP) Committee in addition to the Security Committee of the Local Council Administration (LCA)-represented by elected local leaders- that work closely with the relevant agencies (Uganda).
- **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. So, any external interference to deflect programs for hate leads to conviction. (Djibouti)
- the 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)



Some Recommendations...





Recommendations

The need for customized, workable, and result oriented response must be identified for issues relating to:

- Border management and control,
- law enforcement and mutual legal assistance,
- combating terrorism financing, drug trafficking and other types of organized crime,
- International cooperation and the enhancement of national and regional scientific, technical and operational capacity,
- Sharing of analysis and research, expertise and critical operational information across borders and,
- identifying the correct methods for addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, drug trafficking and other organized crimes

Enhanced Internal Coordination



- Development of an integrated system of information-sharing and establishment of a central, national, networked database;
- Drafting administrative regulations for internal coordination and sharing of information at the operational level
- Procurement of computers, software, information technology, communication tools and technical support to create a central, national, networked counter-terrorism database
- Institutionalize the holding of regular meetings of coordination body and conduct drills, with a command and control centre.

Exchange of Information



- Enhance information exchange at a regional and continental level
- Enhance exchange of information and intelligence on:
 - the activities and criminal acts of terrorist groups
 - the communication and propaganda devices used by terrorist groups,
 - Identity of individuals, groups and entities engaged in terrorist activities
- Enhance intelligence exchange, training and capacity building
- Share lessons learnt and experience gained on counterterrorist tactics;

Border Control



- *Organization of the border control services* - Control missions need to be clearly defined within and between the police and customs services. It is essential that these services operate simultaneously for efficiency and better management of resources;
- Enhance border security through joint and coordinated operations between police, customs, immigration, intelligence and security officials is therefore recommended;
- Establish national databases and ensure interconnectivity between the border posts and the Central database;
- Develop and upgrade the regulations governing border control and security procedures including land, sea and air exit and entry points so as to curb infiltration and promote co-operation among police agencies having due regard for relevant provisions of relevant regional and continental agreements on the free movement of persons and goods;



Integrated Border Management

- Improve “one-stop border” approach in order to involve all Government agencies
- Improve community policing, including enhanced awareness and sense of citizenship of border communities about their roles/responsibilities and capacities in preventing or countering serious offences
- Enhance the engagement of border communities
- Conduct joint training to provide opportunities for informal exchange of information among agencies, enhancing formal cooperation, and developing common understanding of common challenges
- Improved infrastructure at border crossings in order to strengthen controls and facilitate the processing of people and goods.

Enhancing Technical Capacity



- Intelligence collection and analysis,
- Critical Infrastructures and Sensitive Sites Protection,
- Intervention Tactical Units,
- Countering Violent Extremism
- Detection and Neutralization of Improvised Explosive Devices
- in addition to enhancing the capacity of Anti-terrorism Units through training and the provision of adequate equipment

Training Needs...



- Understanding the nature, dynamics and operations of international terrorist groups that may operate in/against a member states,
- Understanding the locations, movements and plans of international terrorist cells that live
- Conducting inquiries and investigations into potential terrorists
- Conducting threat assessments
- Managing critical incidents
- Conducting post-incident investigations
- Providing post-incident crisis debriefing and management for service providers and citizen



THANK YOU

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