

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



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**MODALITIES FOR THE
FUNCTIONING OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY
AND RESEARCH ON TERRORISM (ACSRT)**

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FUNCTIONING OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY
AND RESEARCH ON TERRORISM (ACSRT)**

I. ESTABLISHMENT

1. The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (hereinafter referred to as the Centre) is established as constituted under Section H, Paragraphs 19 to 21 of the AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and pursuant to the relevant decisions adopted by the policy Organs of the Union including in particular, Assembly/AU/Dec.15 (II); EX.CL/Dec.13 (II); EX/CL/Dec.82 (IV); and EX.CL/Dec.126 (V).

2. The Centre is established as a structure of the Commission, in conformity with the Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which confer on the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the responsibility for implementing regional, continental and international counter-terrorism instruments as well as harmonize and coordinate continental efforts in the prevention and combating of terrorism.

II. HEADQUARTERS

The Headquarters of the Centre shall be in Algiers, Algeria. The African Union shall enter into a Host Agreement with the host country based on the practice and principles of the African Union and the international rules governing such agreements.

III. OPERATIONAL STATUS

1. The Centre shall:

- i) be a structure of the Commission of the African Union, to strengthen the capacity of the Union to deal with issues relating to the prevention and combating of Terrorism. It shall function as a research centre of excellence in matters concerning the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa;
- ii) serve the interest of the African Union, in providing expertise in matters relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa;

- iii) be guided by the objectives and principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its Protocol thereto, and the Plan of Action adopted in September 2002, and other relevant instruments and decisions of the Union, as well as the Charter of the United Nations, and other relevant international legal instruments that African countries have acceded to;
- iv) function in coordination with National Focal Points designated by Member States;
- v) develop its curriculum, programme of activities and budget for each year, in consultation with the National Focal points.

IV. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Centre is to contribute to and strengthen the capacity of the African Union in the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa, with the ultimate objective of eliminating the threat posed by terrorism to peace, security, stability and development in Africa. To this end, the Centre shall serve to collect and centralize information, studies and analyses on terrorism and terrorist groups and develop training programs by organizing, with the assistance of international partners, training schedules, meetings and symposia.

V. FUNCTIONS

1. Pursuant to the purpose stated in Section IV above, the functions of the Centre shall be to:

- i) assist Member States of the African Union in developing strategies for the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- ii) establish operating procedures for information gathering, processing and dissemination;
- iii) provide technical and expert advice on the implementation of the African Union counter-terrorism regimes, in particular, the 1999 OAU Convention and its Protocol thereto, the Plan of Action on the

Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, as well as on the updating and strengthening of policies and programmes of the Union relating to counter-terrorism;

- iv) 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. Such a database as well as analyses shall be accessible by all Member States of the Union;
- v) promote the coordination and standardization of efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism;
- vi) initiate and disseminate research studies and policy analyses periodically to sensitize Member States, based on the current trends, and/or on the demand of Member State(s). The Centre shall publish, periodically its research and analyses, in an "African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism";
- vii) develop cooperation and assistance programmes with similar and/or interested institutions at the national, regional, continental and international levels, in the areas of research, information gathering and analyses on issues relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- viii) undertake research and converging studies on other global security problems with links to terrorism, which pose a threat to peace and security in Africa;
- ix) develop capacity for early warning to encourage early response, integrating the concept of Preventive Management of Crisis;
- x) provide technical and expert advice on how best Africa can contribute in a more meaningful way to the international campaign against terrorism, particularly the implementation of relevant international instruments by Member States of the African Union;
- xi) undertake studies and make recommendations on strengthening and standardization of legal norms and cooperation in matters of information-sharing among Member States, mutual assistance,

extradition, police and border control (including land, maritime and air) in Africa;

- xii) conduct studies and analyses on the best strategies and methods for suppressing the financing of terrorism;
- xiii) organize workshops, seminars, symposia and training programs **for** enhancing the capacity of Member States and Regional Mechanisms in the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa;
- xiv) submit annual reports on its activities to the Chairperson of the Commission, for consideration by the policy Organs of the Union. The annual report shall include a financial statement on the activities undertaken in the previous year and the budget of activities envisaged for the next fiscal year.

2. The Centre may also carry out such duties as may be assigned to it by the Commission of the African Union or the Peace and Security Council, on matters relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Given the sensitive nature of the issues the Centre will be dealing with, and in order to safeguard its credibility, the Centre shall:

- i) maintain a degree of confidentiality and tight security procedures, in the collection and dissemination of information and data on terrorism;
- ii) ensure that the information it publishes or disseminates is reliable and verifiable;
- iii) be guided by the academic and ethical code of conduct for research and analysis;
- iv) organize regularly, symposia, at the level of all Member States to raise awareness, address the prevailing challenges, and to promote efforts aimed at preventing and combating terrorism in Africa.

VII. COMPOSITION & STRUCTURE

1. The Centre shall be headed by a Director. The Director shall report to the Chairperson of the Commission through the Commissioner for Peace and Security. The Commission shall work out a detailed Organigram and structure of the Centre for consideration and approval by the relevant policy Organs of the Union.
2. The Centre shall be equipped with a Library, technical/electronic equipment (hardware and software);
3. The Centre shall comprise of international and local staff. The recruitment of Staff of the Centre shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the Union.
4. The Director shall be assisted by an Advisory Board, appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission for one year renewable term. The composition of the Board shall include one (1) representative from each of the five regions and one (1) representative from each of the RECs, drawn from the Focal Points of the Centre, in consultation with Member States and the RECs as well as representatives from the Commission. The Board shall serve as a mechanism of the Commission for the periodic review and/or evaluation of the curriculum, programmes, budget and finance, and other operational and administrative aspects of the Centre for the purpose of ensuring the efficient performance of the Centre, in line with the rules and regulations of the Union. It shall, among others, perform the following functions:
 - i) Review and assess the curriculum and programmes of the Centre to ensure that they are focused and practicable within a given timeframe, consistent with the mandate and functions of the Centre as contained in this Modalities, and up-to-date with prevailing trends on terrorism as well as meet the needs of Member States of the Union;
 - ii) Review the structure and budget of the Centre vis-à-vis its activities and needs with the view to making recommendations to the policy Organs of the Union;
 - iii) Make recommendations to the Chairperson of the Commission on how achieve the maximum performance of the Centre.

VIII. FUNDING

1. Without Prejudice to the autonomy and status of the Centre as a structure of the Commission,

- i) It shall be funded from the regular budget and Extra-budgetary sources of funding to be mobilized by the Commission;
- ii) It shall prepare and submit its annual budget to the AU Commission for consideration and approval by the relevant policy Organs of the Union.

IX. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The conditions of work and terms of Service, including remuneration of Staff of the Centre shall be based on the AU Staff Rules and Regulations.