

**Opening Remarks of Ambassador Francisco Caetano José Madeira, AU
Chairpersons' Special Representative for Counterterrorism Cooperation/Director
of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT)**

**Training Course on Principles and Methods of Police Evaluation
– Operational Analysis –
ACSRT, Algiers, Algeria: 17 – 25 April 2012**

**Your Excellency madame Jutta Wolke, Ambassador of Germany to the Peoples'
Democratic Republic of Algeria,
Your Excellencies members of the diplomatic corps,
Distinguished delegates,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is, for us, a great honor and a source of immense satisfaction to welcome you to the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism for the opening ceremony of the training course on **Principles and Methods of Police Evaluation – Operational Analysis-**

This training, organized in straight collaboration with and multifaceted support of the German Bundeskriminalamt, is the first regionally based training of a series of others to come in the African Union's effort to help provide the continent with professionally skilled officers and strengthen member states capacity to successfully prevent and combat terrorism and other transnational organized crimes.

It goes without saying that terrorism and related crimes, continue to represent a serious threat to peace and security in our sub-region. Ongoing events in the Sahel remind us of the actuality of this fact and the urgent need for us to continue building capacity, strengthening our security mechanisms and methods of work and enhancing our analytical skills in order to ascertain with greater accuracy the meaning of developments around us, prevent disaster and prevail in the regional fight against terror and associated scourges.

The impact of the Libyan crisis, the influx in the SAHEL, of weapons of different sizes, calibers and destructive capacity, the resurgence, with renewed vigor, within the touareg movement of secessionist forces such as MNLA, MILA and the Committee for the support of the MNLA Tergi and the serious threat this poses to the unity and territorial integrity of fragile states in the region, the multiplication of Islamist groups such as the Movement of Children of the South for Islamic justice in the Sahara, and the entering into action, with accrued virulence, fanaticism, growing intolerance and violent extremism, of jihadist groups such as Mujao and Ansar ed Dine, render the situation in the sub-region particularly explosive and calls, on our part, for a renewed resolve and unfaltering commitment to face these challenges with determination and efficiency for, they threaten the most elementary values that sustain pluralistic and tolerant societies.

The African Union, as the main coordinating body of the continental effort against terrorism, is very conscious of its critical role in the region's complex and interconnected security system.

The course that is starting today is a direct result of the evaluation missions the Center carried out last year to the member states of the SAHEL to assess their state of preparedness to face the threats emerging from terrorism, organized crime and other associated scourges.

Together with individual leadership of these countries, we came to the conclusion that there was a serious capacity deficit in several counter terrorism domains within the member states. Among these, we identified reduced capacity to counter acts of incitement to extremism and radicalization leading to violence; reduced number properly trained and experienced intelligence officials and low capacity to collect terrorism related data and process it into intelligence that can be used to detect terrorist threats, identify terrorists and put them out of action before they can perpetrate their heinous acts and help secure peace and stability in the community. Reinforcing the judiciary and training cadres in the protection of critical infrastructures and sensitive sites were other areas where capacity weaknesses were detected.

We felt that the centre should adjust its priorities and direct part of its efforts into helping member states provide an adequate and effective response to these weaknesses and challenges through training in those areas. Last week a seminar on Radicalization and de-radicalization took place here. It brought together prominent

scholars, researchers, philosophers and theologians from the region and beyond to help the Sahel region better understand the phenomenon of radicalization and the conditions that take people to slide into it, to give the SAHEL the intellectual tools required to create resilience and protect their populations from falling prey to incitement of terrorist acts and in case they do fall, to help them extricate themselves from the cobweb of radicalism.

This time and during two weeks, highly qualified and experienced experts are going to administer training on intelligence collection, analysis and evaluation to participants drawn among officials not only from the Sahel countries, but also from AMISSOM, the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and Nigeria. The ACSRT has been working hand in hand with the Somali transitional authorities and the African Union Mission in Somalia which is helping the people of Somalia fight Alshabaab extremists. To improve coordination and maximize synergies we worked together with the Somali authorities in the establishment of a fusion centre which, we believe will allow for a better information sharing among the parties involved in the fight against terrorism in that beleaguered African Union member state. I wish all participants great success in your training. Thank you