

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الإفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

CAERT, B.P 141 Bureau Poste El-Mohammadia Alger, Algérie, Tel +213 21 52 01 10 Fax: +213 21 52 03 78
Email : admin@caert.org.dz

Press Release No 8/2014

16th April 2014

Belgian and Greek Ambassadors visit CAERT



On 15 and 16 April 2014 Ambassador Francisco Madeira, Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism and members of the ACSRT staff, held meetings with H.E. Frédéric Meurice, Belgian Ambassador to Algeria and H.E. Ambassador Ifigeneria Kontolenotos, Ambassador of Greece to Algeria.

The two dignitaries wanted to be briefed about ACSRT/CAERT's role in the overall fight against terrorism on the African continent and the way the countries can contribute to that fight through ACSRT/CAERT

Ambassador Madeira gave a brief on the African Union Counter Terrorism Strategy. He pointed out that the establishment of the ACSRT has been a major achievement for the AU with respect to the concrete implementation of its counter-terrorism regime. CAERT is a technical body of the African Union Commission on issues related to the prevention and combating of terrorism. One of its mandates is to assist African Member States to implement international and continental instruments on the fight against terrorism.

He added that the ACSRT, since its establishment, has been active on many fronts including the development of capacity building programmes to enhance the CT capabilities of the African Union Member States. These programmes include, among others, intelligence gathering and analysis, radicalization, violent extremism and de-radicalization, strengthening border related counter terrorism capacities, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, terrorism financing and law enforcement.

He said that at the core of the ACSRT's structure is a network of national and regional CT focal points linked to the ACSRT through a secure communication system based in and coordinated from the ACSRT itself. With this effective communication mechanism, the ACSRT can establish real time contact and exchange information with all its focal points, transmit alerts and other early warning products, and receive relevant CT information from the AU Member States.

Ambassador Madeira mentioned that every year the ACSRT undertakes Counter Terrorism Preparedness Evaluation Missions to an average of 6 African Member States to analyse the capacity of the above mentioned countries to fulfil their commitments under the terms of the AU Plan of Action (2002) and to evaluate the capacities of the National Focal Points to prevent and combat terrorism.

Ambassador Madeira underlined that counter-terrorism is emerging as a key area of cooperation between the ACSRT and the United Nations, the European Union as well as EU Member States. He stated that the Centre has established close working relations with the USA, Germany, Spain, European Union, CTED, CTITF, INTERPOL and many other organizations involved in the prevention and fight against terrorism.

The two delegations stated that their visit to the ACSRT was very fruitful and provided an opportunity to better understand the functioning modalities of the African Union Counter Terrorism Regimes. They also emphasised the vital importance of building cooperation with the ACSRT in the fight against terrorism.