

## Security Council Open Debate on Peace and Security in Africa: The Impact of Transitional Organized Crime Peace, Security and Stability in West Africa and the Sahel Region.



*Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira*

**A**t the 6717th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 February 2012, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace and Security in Africa" with focus on "the impact of the transnational organized crime on peace, security and stability in West Africa and the Sahel Region", Ambassador Francisco Jose Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, and Director of the ACSRT issued the following statement on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union, Dr. Jean Ping.

### **The Statement:**

Today's debate is of particular relevance to the efforts being made by the African Union to address the multifaceted challenges facing the conti-

ment in terms of peace and security. The Common African Defense and Security Policy, adopted by our Union in 2004, has clearly defined what Africa's security and stability rests upon. The Policy emphasizes not only the traditional threats, such as intra-state conflicts, but also non-traditional threats emerging from a changing international environment, including transnational organized crime, ranging from arms, drugs and human trafficking contraband, smuggling to piracy and money laundering. Today, the impact of transnational organized crime is more evident than ever before.

### **Inside this issue:**

Visite de la délégation tunisienne au Centre Africain d'Etudes et

ACSRT took part in the meeting that gathered the (GCTF) with the United Nations, and other international, regional and sub regional organisations.

Statement by Ambassador Francisco Madeira at the COTER meeting

Forum Mondial sur la Lutte Contre le Trafic Illicite de Stupéfiants et les Menaces Liées.

### **ACSRT Newsletter**

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More alarmingly, crime is converging with other transnational threats, such as extremism and terrorism. Failure to address these threats comprehensively, effectively and collectively puts at risk the very foundations of viable democratic states in Africa which our people have been

***“Now we need to start talking about what is it that we can do, in the spirit of shared responsibilities, to confront this menace.”***

striving for since independence.

The African continent is particularly vulnerable to transnational organized crime. Porous borders, weakened states institutions as a result of prolonged civil strife, poverty, environmental degradation and challenges to securing natural resources, are but a few of these vulnerabilities. Response to these threats should therefore be comprehensive and multi-dimensional.

In view of these challenges, strong commitment from all stakeholders is an imperative.

In a globalized world, criminal networks span continents, and Africa is being affected by crime spill over from other regions. We can no longer afford to think in terms of national-interests alone.

We need to carefully envisage how we can best respond to internal and transnational threats.

Over the past few years, West Africa, the Sahel region and the continent as a whole have undertaken commendable efforts towards putting in place joint decision-making and operational mechanisms to combat crime, terrorism and piracy. Their efforts deserve the full support of the international community.

As recently as the 29th of January, at the initiative of the African Union, Ministers and other Senior Officials of the

countries of the Sahel region met in Addis Ababa to discuss common security challenges, on the basis of the report and recommendations of the Joint AU-UN Assessment Mission on the Impact of the Libyan Crisis on the Sahel that visited the region in December 2011. I am pleased to inform you that, in a few week’s time, an experts’ level meeting will be convened by the African Union, in collaboration with United Nations, to agree on the required follow up measures. This will be followed by a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council on the situation in the Sahel.

As we redouble our efforts to confront transnational crime, we need to enhance the effectiveness of our action through institutional building and reform. We equally need to strengthen the rule of law and accountability, in order to curb crime in a sustainable manner. We also need to realize

that confronting crime is not only about patrolling borders and waters – we should indeed commit ourselves to creating alternative economic opportunities to the most vulnerable sections of our population, in order to address the underlying conditions that give rise to crime, poverty, environmental degradation and social exclusion.

Over the past few years, various studies and research have been conducted and many more reports were written on the growing threat of transnational organized crime in West Africa, the Sahel region and Africa as a whole. Now we need to start talking about what is it that we can do, in the spirit of shared responsibilities, to confront this menace.

In Africa, efforts should focus on the implementation and effective follow up to the numerous instruments that have been adopted.

22 mars 2012

## Visite de la délégation tunisienne au Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme

Une délégation tunisienne de haut niveau a effectué une visite de travail au CAERT le 22 mars 2012 dans le but de renforcer les relations entre l'Etat tunisien et le CAERT et de s'inspirer des meilleures pratiques pour le renforcement des capacités de lutte contre le terrorisme et ainsi tracer la voie à une collaboration fructueuse entre la Tunisie et le Centre.

Après une allocution de bienvenue par Dr Liess Boukra, le Directeur Adjoint du CAERT, Une brève présentation sur les activités et les différentes formations pratiques et thématiques du CAERT a été faite par M. Ameur Dahmani.

La délégation tunisienne a préféré établir un dialogue sincère et direct avec les cadres du Centre afin d'aller directement aux buts tracés pour cette réunion, à savoir :

Les accès à la base de Données du CAERT relative au terrorisme, groupes terroristes et

activités criminelles;

S'ils pouvaient bénéficier de formation dans des domaines spécifiques, tels que la neutralisation des explosifs et la protection des sites sensibles ;

De la documentation concernant la prolifération des armes dans la région nord-africaine et du sahel ;

La séance a duré 01 heure et 15 mn et s'est terminée par un accord de la partie tunisienne de désigner un point focal capable de maintenir un contact permanent et être le point de contact par excellence avec le CAERT.

En conclusion, la réaction du CAERT a été favorable à la demande tunisienne ou l'accord leur a été donné pour la participation aux programmes de formation initiés par le CAERT concernant les activités dans les domaines suivants :

La dé-radicalisation, (ou la Tunisie a été conviée à cet événe-

ment qui se déroulera du 08 au 10 avril 2012),

La protection des sites sensibles,

Analyse du renseignement et évaluation,

Formation judiciaire dans le domaine du contre-terrorisme

Enfin, la convergence des vues et des aperçus nous a permis de décider de rester en contact en permanence afin de consolider l'échange d'expérience et d'information dans la lutte contre le terrorisme.

## The ACSRT took part in the meeting that gathered GCTF with the United Nations, and other international, regional and sub regional organisations, in Interlaken, Switzerland, on 23 and 24 February 2012.



The meeting was organised by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of Switzerland. It aimed to enhance counter-terrorism coordination and help to harmonise activities of the various actors in the implementation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Global Strategy, as well as to highlight the role played by the UN and the international, regional and sub regional organisations in the fight against terrorism and other transnational criminal activities.

About 100 experts from the GCTF's Member States, the UN, and 9 regional and sub re-

gional organisations were represented. The African Union was represented by its African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, based in Algiers. The ACSRT/African Union delegate, Colonel Christian Emmanuel MOUAYA POUYI, Specialist on Alert, Prevention, Analysis, Studies and Publication, delivered two, herewith attached, statements on Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building in the Sahara and Horn of Africa Regions.

Discussions focused on how to manage the relationship between the GCTF and the organisa-

tions actively taking part in counter-terrorism, particularly the UN and the regional organisations.

Participants admitted that to eliminate the breeding grounds of radicalism and terrorism, the strengthening of the rule of law and criminal prosecution, as well as the promotion of peace, human rights and democracy and other national and international requirements have, amongst other taken measures, to be done equally and harmoniously under the guidance of the UN bodies in charge of countering terrorism and the UN Global Strategy.

The international, regional and sub regional bodies, in compliance with the UN bodies, supplement the CT action, considering the identified specific challenges and needs in

their respective geographical areas.

The GCTF plays as a platform for the sharing of information, resulting from the activity of its 5 Work groups amongst UN and international, regional and sub regional organisations, involved in Counter Terrorism.

The GCTF was founded in New York in September 2011. It comprises 29 member states from all continents, plus the EU. Its activity aims to strengthen and supplement the already existing international activities, by coordinating and helping to build appropriate response where required. Its coordination committee is co-chaired by the USA and Turkey, and it comprises five workgroups: criminal justice and rule of law in counterterrorism, Prevention of violent extremism, Sahel region, Horn of Africa,



Brussels, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012

## Statement by Ambassador Francisco Madeira at the EU Working Party on External Aspects of Counter Terrorism (COTER) Meeting

Upon the invitation of Mr Jorgen Gammelgaard, Danish Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and Chair of the (COTER) Ambassador. Francisco Caetano Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, and Director of the ACSRT visited the House of the European Union in Brussels, had a working lunch with Mr. Gilles de KEROCHEVE, EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator and addressed the participants of the COTER meeting. the following is the summary of his statement.

Ambassador Madeira thanked the meeting for giving him this opportunity to share experiences and analysis on terrorism with the participants.

He briefed the meeting on the situation in the

African continent over the past six months, saying that East Africa experienced significant terrorist activities carried out mainly by Al-shabaab. In this regard he pointed out that Al-shabaab has formally joined the Al Qaida network, had lately serious defeats.

Ambassador Madeira also highlighted the situation in the Sahel region emphasizing seriousness of the fact that AL-Qaida in the Islamic MAGREB had been able to replenish its arsenals with dangerous weapons of different calibers and from different sources and origins, including those from Libya. He added that Al-Qaida terrorist activities continue to undermine governance, tourist industry and economic and social development in the Sahel

Ambassador Madeira made mission of the

kidnapping at Rabouni, near Tindouf, last October, of three humanitarian agents from Spain and Italy is a source of additional concern to us all. The kidnapping was rejected by AQMI. But MUJAO, a terrorist entity which presents itself as dissident group from AQMI and until recently unknown to many of us, claimed responsibility for this act. Another Islamic group that goes by the name of Ansar Edin has emerged in the Sahel set up by Iyad Agghali, the leader of 1991 Tuareg rebellion.

He added that the events in Libya did not just bring weapons of mass destruction and other dangerous weapons of war into the region thus exacerbating the violent activity by the armed groups. They also brought dispossessed and destitute men, women and chil-

dren, soldiers and mercenaries with proven military skills to place fraught with political instability, institutional weaknesses, abject poverty, growing food crisis, drought, diseases and helplessness. This cocktail is dangerously flammable. It has aggravated the already explosive situation prevailing on the ground and the resurgence of armed conflict in northern Mali may just be one of its immediate consequences.

The Sahel Region will, therefore, have to deal with additional terrorist fronts and, consequently, with a likely increase in terrorist and criminal incidents in the region in the near future.

With the regard to Nigeria, he said we are witnessing an escalation of activities by Boko Haram with the view to destroying the laic state in this vast

country, and replace it with a theocratic Islamic one. After lowering its activities in 2009, the group regained initiative in 2010 and since last year to date it has intensified in an unprecedented manner, its violent actions.

Regarding Central Africa, he pointed out the criminal activities of the Lord Resistance Army in DRC, Central African Republic and South Sudan, and those perpetrated by other armed rebel groups against the civilian populations in the sub-region.

In the area of collaboration with other International Organizations he underscored the effort that exhorted by the AU, the UN, the EU the USA and the countries affected to combine synergies to root out LRA.

The December UN-AU inter-agency mission report on the Sahel outlined most of the assistance presently required for the Sahel region

Ambassador Madeira said that on the 29<sup>th</sup> of

January, at the initiative of the African Union, Ministers and other senior officials of the countries of the SAHEL region including Nigeria, met in Addis Ababa to discuss common security challenges on the basis of the report and recommendations of the joint AU-UN mission on the impact of the Libyan crisis on the Sahel Region. The ministers of the Sahel clearly endorsed the recommendations of the UN-AU report. Recognizing as their responsibility to keep improving governance and try to provide for their people, they pinpointed the need not to separate security from development. They summarized the priority needs for the region in the following way: increased capacity building, continued logistical support and sustained sharing of quality operational intelligence.

The EU, in its counter terrorism strategy for the Sahel has also identified the need to link

and balance security measures and development programs as an absolute requirement.

The African Centre for the study and research on terrorism has visited the five regions of our continent and came across a stark coincidence in terms of vulnerabilities of member states and the type of remedy required to curing them.

He stressed that the considerable external assistance, financial, material and in terms of long term sustained capacity building are essential to help the vulnerable countries.

The Sahel countries have approved a number of documents which, together can be viewed as a regional strategy. ECOWAS also has a more structured and comprehensive draft counter terrorism strategy which already takes into consideration the four pillars of the UN global counter terrorism strategy. The rest of the

continent is still lagging behind in this respect.

In conclusion, he said, the African centre have identified as priority areas for our intervention at this juncture to galvanize member states' effort in organizing their counter terrorism institutions, to organize, on a regional basis, training in the areas of intelligence gathering and evaluation, the judiciary and financial intelligence, the protection of critical infrastructures and sensitive sites and the efforts to protect communities and the youth from radicalization.

The meetings in COTER are attended by CT focal points in the 27 EU Member States, the Commission, European External Action Service and the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator Mr. Gilles de Kerchove.

25-27 janvier 2012 à Bruxelles

## Forum Mondial sur la Lutte Contre le Trafic Illicite de Stupéfiants et les Menaces Liées.

**S**ur invitation de l'Office Mondial des Douanes (OMD), le Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme, représenté par M. Ameer DAHMANI, Chef d'unité base de données et documentation par intérim et Administrateur des Réseaux du CAERT, a pris part au forum mondial sur le thème « **La lutte contre le trafic illicite de stupéfiants et les menaces liées** »

L'OMD a fait de la lutte contre le trafic des drogues et des précurseurs chimiques, du blanchiment d'argent et de la corruption ses priorités, répondant en cela aux préoccupations de ses 177 membres, ainsi que de ses partenaires. En effet, le trafic illicite de produits stupéfiants constitue l'un des grands fléaux du monde moderne et représente également l'une des sources de financement du terrorisme international.

L'analyse des données concernant les itinéraires, les moyens de transport et les personnes interpellées montre, outre la croissance rapide du trafic de drogue et son étendue en termes de pays concernés que la réponse de la communauté internationale ne peut être que globale et coordonnée.

Le principal objectif de ce Forum a permis de rassembler l'ensemble des acteurs «pays Membres et organisations internationales et régionales» en charge de la lutte contre les produits stupéfiants et précurseurs chimiques et des menaces liées pour échanger les meilleures pratiques et expériences en cours.

Cinq grands thèmes ont été retenus pour ces ateliers ; **les tendances actuelles en matière de trafic de stupéfiants et menaces liées, le renforcement de la coopération régionale/ internationale et la**

**problématique de l'échange du renseignement, le renforcement des capacités, le développement de programmes et de projets adaptés ainsi que la problématique du blanchiment de l'argent de la drogue.**

Le forum de Bruxelles, s'inscrit dans l'urgence d'ordonner les efforts, du renforcement de la coopération mutuelle, d'améliorer l'échange de renseignements et d'optimiser l'utilisation de tous les outils et instruments disponibles tout en faisant preuve d'un haut niveau d'éthique.

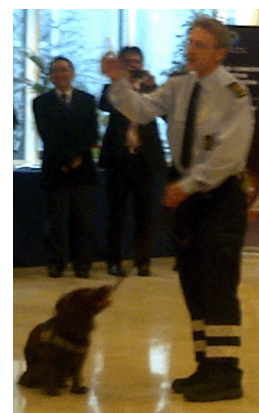
Le forum était organisé sur trois journées qui ont été divisées en demi-journées animées par des chefs de services ou de spécialistes disposant d'une grande expérience en la matière.

**L'apport du centre africain de recherche et d'études sur le terrorisme (CAERT) du-**



*M. Damani Ameer*

*« La lutte contre le trafic illicite de stupéfiants et les menaces liées »*



*Brigade canine: en démonstration devant les participants*

**rant ce forum** a été salué par toute l'assistance, après une brève présentation du Centre, de ses activités et des objectifs qui lui sont assignés (renforcement des capacités de l'Union africaine dans le domaine de la prévention et de la lutte contre le terrorisme en Afrique, centralisation et dissémination des informations, études et analyses relatives au terrorisme et aux groupes terroristes qui évoluent dans la région et enfin formation des experts africain dans le domaine de la lutte contre le terrorisme), le représentant du CAERT a demandé une étroite coopération entre les organisations internationales, les Etats leaders, impliqués dans la lutte contre le trafic illicite de drogue et les pays Africains. Une série de recommandations a été faite pour consolider les efforts des Etats Africains chargé de la lutte contre cette forme de criminalité, à savoir:

Accorder un intérêt particulier à la connexion entre les réseaux de dro-

gues et les groupes terroristes armés et renforcer la capacité des Etats engagés dans la lutte contre le trafic illicite de drogue, par des sessions de formations de policiers, de douaniers et de juges ;

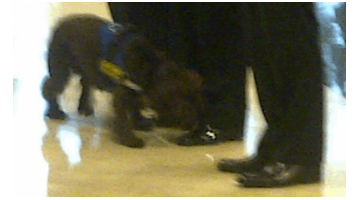
Mettre en place et encourager les canaux d'échanges d'informations et de renseignements relatifs aux auteurs de crime organisé avec les organismes de lutte telle que le CAERT via sa base de données relative au terrorisme et crime organisé ;

Renforcer les capacités de contrôle et de surveillance des institutions financières et mettre en œuvre, une stratégie intégrant tous les facteurs de développement et les voies de coopération pour lutter contre les menaces pesant sur la sécurité intérieure et régionales des Etats ;

Sur le plan sécuritaire, prévoir l'intégration régionale par la création, sous un commandement unifié, d'un

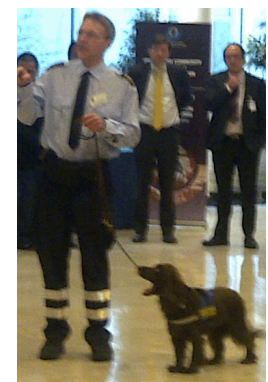
mécanisme policier de prévention et de lutte contre la criminalité organisée transnationale.

**le Secrétaire général de l'OMD, M. Kunio Mikuriya** qui a souligné que le problème de la drogue est de nature globale et constitue une grave menace sur la santé, la sécurité et le bien-être de l'humanité. Il a ajouté que l'OMD a fait de la lutte contre le trafic des drogues et des précurseurs chimiques, du blanchiment d'argent et de la corruption ses priorités, répondant en cela aux préoccupations de ses 177 membres, ainsi que de ses partenaires. Il a tenu à souligner que ce forum est le premier événement organisé dans le cadre des célébrations du 60ème anniversaire de l'OMD, qu'il fait partie d'un ensemble de manifestations inscrites tout au long de cette année autour du thème de 2012 sur la connectivité **“Les frontières divisent, les douanes rapprochent”**.



*Brigade canine recherche de produits stupéfiants*

*“Les frontières divisent, les douanes rapprochent”*



*Brigade canine: en démonstration devant les participants*