

Evaluation Missions to East Africa Member States



From left to right: Mr. Lallali, Deputy Director of the ACSRT, Major AGABA, Ambassador Madeira, ACSRT Director, Ms. Judith, Analyst and Col. Gonyi

A delegation of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) led by **H.E Ambassador Francisco Caetano José Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Director of the ACSRT**, including 6 experts in different areas of counterterrorism, undertook three (3) evaluation missions to the **Republic of Uganda, 17 to 21 September 2012, Burundi, 23 to 29 September 2012 and Djibouti, 1 to 5 October 2012.**

These evaluation missions, which are financed by the European Union Commission (EUC), are part of the ACSRT strategic programme of action for 2010-2013, adopted by the African National Focal Points (FP) during their

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ACSRT Newsletter

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fourth meeting, held at the ACSRT's headquarters on 17-19 June, 2010 and as a follow up to the decision on the prevention and combating of terrorism adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda, from 25 to 27 July 2010.

The primary purpose of these missions is to analyze the capacity of the above mentioned Member States to fulfill 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.

Moreover these missions seek to develop recommendations on measures that the Member States should take in order to comply with their obligations under the AU Plan of Action (2002) and relevant AU decisions on the prevention and combating of terrorism and identify areas in which the three countries may require technical assistance.

During these missions the ACSRT delegations undertook on-site visits to border posts, airports, and other relevant facilities to assess the implementation on the

ground.

The ACSRT team also held a series of discussions with Ugandan, Burundian and Djiboutian authorities on counter-terrorism related matters, including radicalization and the de-radicalization, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, terrorism financing, law enforcement and border control. These discussions helped the team to assess threats arising as result from these countries' geographical positions, the rapid development of religious charities, the existence of networks in-



The Opening Session in Burundi



ACSRT team in a meeting with Mr. Abdou, the president of National Committee of the Human's Rights in Djibouti

involved in the making true/fake identification and travel documents, returnee jihadists, radicalization and indoctrination of minors, cross borders and the financing of terrorism. The discussions were also designed to identify the main challenges undermining the regions' capacity to effectively prevent and combat terrorism.

Ambassador Madeira, the head of the ACSRT delegation, held specific high-level meetings with different ministers in the four countries.

During these meetings, Ambassador Madeira briefed the ministers on the African Union instruments to counter terrorism, including the 1999

African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the protocol thereof, the 2002 AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the establishment of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in 2004.

In this regard, he outlined the role of ACSRT in centralizing counter terrorism information, carrying out studies and analysis, providing training and counter terrorism symposia and seminars. The Ambassador indicated that in order to streamline Member States counter terrorism legislation, the AUC adopted the African Model Law on counter terrorism to serve as a

template that would guide Member States in developing, strengthening and/or updating their national criminal law.

The Ministers recognized the vulnerabilities of their countries and reaffirmed their commitment to implement a coherent strategy against terrorism and fulfill their continental and international obligations. In this regard, they unanimously praised the mission, which was to them a proof of the solidarity of the African Union Commission and its willingness to support the capacity building efforts of the Member States in to prevention and combating terrorism.

In Uganda



Top left : Ambassador Madeira , Director of the ACSRT and Mr Mounir Lallali, Deputy Director of the ACSRT, in a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Far Right: Mr Cheborio Pnt , head of immigration Department, Uganda giving a presentation

Right: Ambassador Madeira and Major AGABA, the ACSRT Focal Point



The ACSRT delegation visited the Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force (JATT), the Entebbe International Airport (EIA), the Police Counter terrorism Tactical Response Department, the Busia Border Post, between Kenya and Uganda, the office of Ugandan National Focal Point to the ACSRT.

Also, Ambassador Madeira, the ACSRT Head of Delegation held specific high-level discussions with the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Security and the Minister of State for Justice and Constitutional Affairs/Deputy Attorney General, in addition to the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Military Intelligence

(CMI), the Director General of External Security Organization (ESO), the Deputy Director General Internal Security Organization (ISO), the Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Counter terrorism and the Director of the Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force (JATT).



Busia Border Post



Entebbe International Airport



Counter terrorism Police

In Burundi



The ACSRT delegation visited Bujumbura International Airport and Gasenyi-Nemba, border post between Rwanda and Burundi.



Photos: up-right: ACSRT Delegation are discussing the security measures in Bujumbura international Airport

Up-left Gasenyi-Nemba border post

Down: ACSRT team with Gasenyi-Nemba border post staff members

The Head of ACSRT Delegation, Ambassador Madeira had high-level discussions with the Chief of the President Cabinet of the Republic, the Minister of Defence,

the Minister of Public Security and International Cooperation, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of External Relations, Finance and Planning.



Photos from left to right: Ambassador Madeira was in a meeting with 1- The Minister of Justice of Burundi 2- Minister of Internal affairs of Burundi 3- The Minister of Defence

In Djibouti



Ambassador Madeira, Director and Mr. Lallali, Deputy Director of the ACSRT are in a meeting with the General Director of the Ministry of trade and international cooperation

The ACSRT Delegation visited the Loyada border checkpoint (Djibouti-Somalia border, about 17 kms south of Djibouti). The particularity of this checkpoint is that it separates Djibouti from the self-proclaimed state of Somaliland not recognized by neither the African Union nor any of the neighbors of Djibouti. Therefore, contacts between the Djiboutian border services and their Somaliland counterpart take place on an informal basis, unlike the other checkpoints situated on the border with Ethiopia. Services in charge of this checkpoint are the National Police Immigration Service, and the customs services. The Army

carries out patrols along the border. The Police and Gendarmerie control different points on the main track leading to Djibouti. The border witnesses an average flow of 30 people / day, travelling mainly for business, medical or family purposes.

The Head of Delegation of the ACSRT held high-level meetings with the Director General of the National Police of Djibouti and the Director General of the National Security Services. .



Port of Djibouti

10 –11 October 2012

East Africa Evaluation Missions Workshop



H.E. Ambassador Francisco Madeira and the EU Special Representative Mr. Jean-Francois Hasperue

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) convened a summative workshop on Evaluation Missions to East Africa, from 10 to 11 October 2012, at the AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Participants to the meeting included representatives of the four evaluated East African member states, namely Burundi, Djibouti, The Sudan and Uganda. The European Union Commission as well as the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) were also represented.

The two day-meeting was dedicated to sharing, amongst the participants, the findings and conclusions of the evaluation missions to East Africa and agreeing on the priority areas to be focused on.

The participants, after reiterating the need for customized, workable, and result-oriented responses, made the following recommendations:

On Enhancing Counterterrorism legal Capacity:

Member States that have not yet done so, should take, without further delay, the required steps to become parties to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, its 2004 Protocol, as well as the relevant international instruments, including the implementation of AU Plan of Action (2002) and AU Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017);

Appeal to Member States to review their national counterterrorism legislations with the view to aligning them with the provisions of the AU Compre-

hensive Counterterrorism Model Law;

The need to establish of a specialized national judicial pool, comprising specialized judges, prosecutors and investigators on terrorism;

On Combating the Financing of Terrorism (FT) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML):

Member states that have not yet established an Finance Intelligence Unit (FIU) should take the required steps to establish one, without further delay.

Development of awareness-rising programs involving financial and non-financial institutions in the fight against suspicious transactions and terrorist financing;

The need to strengthen the existing financial control and monitoring systems;

Member States are urged to integrate the criminalization of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups in their national legislations as stipulated by the decision of the Assembly / AU/DEC.256 (XIII), adopted in Sirte in July 2009.

On the National Focal Point Structure:

The need for countries to view counterterrorism Focal Points

as established structures and not as individuals and the need to strengthen their capacity to effectively deliver their mandates.

On Cooperation, Coordination and Exchange of Information

Enhancement of information exchange and coordination in terrorism related matters at national and regional levels;

Provide for the creation, under a unified command, a law enforcement mechanism, in the form of National and Regional Fusion Centers, to prevent and combat terrorism and transnational organized crime, including the creation, at national and regional levels of a system of databases on crime.

On Countering radicalization

The need to ensure continuous gathering of intelligence and close monitoring and investigation of suspected radical elements and activities;

The need to conceive mechanisms for regular interaction between relevant government authorities and religious leaders;

The need to encourage scholars and theologians to lead the intellectual debate and dialogue with a view to addressing the factors that influence radicalization and extremism.

On Border Control and

Management

Enhance border security through joint and coordinated operations between police, customs, immigration, intelligence and security officials;

Establish national databases and ensure interconnectivity between the border posts and the Central databases;

Develop and upgrade the regulations and procedures governing border control and security at land, sea and air entry/exit points so as to curb infiltration and promote co-operation among security agencies;

On enhancing Technical Capacity:

The participants agreed on the need for continuous training and development of technical and operational capacity of member states in the areas of intelligence gathering and analysis, Critical Infrastructures and Sensitive Sites Protection, Justice delivery, Intervention Unit, Countering Violent Extremism and the provision of adequate equipment, in the following priority areas:

Anti-Terrorism Tactical Units:

Training of teams of negotiators and specialists in explosive detection and neutralization

Acquisition of explosives and narcotics detection equipment and canine units

Training of Self-Defense train-

ers, training against maritime terrorism training in VIPs protection, training in offensive and defensive driving and advanced snipers training.

Airport Security

Training in airport security, air incident management and forensic science

Detection and neutralization of Explosives (IEDs) training

On the respect of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism:

Participants reaffirmed that counterterrorism measures must fully comply with international human rights law, refugee law as well as criminal and humanitarian laws. Furthermore, Member States should also comply with the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly (including the Strategy), the Algiers Convention on Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (1999), the African Charter of Human and People's Rights and their counterterrorism mechanisms must be consistent with the importance that the AU attaches to the rule of law and human rights.

Finally, The participants commended the work conducted by the ACSRT assessment team and expressed their wish for these evaluation missions to be conducted on a continued and frequent basis.

3–5 October 2012

Workshop for the validation of the AU Communication and Advocacy strategy



Ms. Habiba Mijri Cheikh, Director of Information & Communication, AUC



Ms. Nashwa Kamel, WebMaster, ACSRT

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, represented by Ms. Nashwa Kamel, took part in a workshop for the validation of the AU Communication and Advocacy strategy (2013 – 2016), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The last day was dedicated to discussing the current status of the African Union Website and Social Media Presence as well as to endorsing the Draft Social Media and Website Guidelines.

The workshop brought together communication officers in the AU Regional Offices, the AU Organs and Institutions, NEPAD, UNECA, RECs, the African Development Bank (ADB), the European Union, focal persons dealing with communication in the AUC Departments, the staff of the Directorate of Information and Communication of the AUC; Stakeholder and partners focal persons in communication.

The workshop was organized to discuss the Draft Strategy and the Operational Plan

which constitute the basis of the African Union Communication plan of action for 2013 – 2016 period aimed at ensuring an effective communication in the African Union, managed by the DIC in collaboration with all the information and communication officers within the AU regional offices as well as AU Organs, and the Communication and Information officers of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) among others.

The Communication Strategy is a plan-framework that comprises a combination of reactions capable of influencing necessary changes with regard to knowledge, opinion and behaviors of the targeted population, with a view to resolving a development problem, following a given agenda.

The draft communication strategy is based on a study conducted by the Directorate of Information and Communication.

The study clarified the role of communications towards the realization of the missions of the AU Commission as a management

function that should be central to the work of the Commission. It is a shared responsibility involving officials and staff at all levels. And it demands cooperation and coordination within, between and among the institutions and departments of the Commission.

The study reviewed the communication context of the AUC and current perception where it identified the vulnerabilities in different areas such as:

Communication as a management tool: an example of ineffective communications that led to the damaging of the image and reputation of the AU, the failures in conflict management, especially the handling of some crisis such as in Libya and Côte d'Ivoire.

Weak communication inputs: the issuance of press releases, communiqués and reporting on activities is not strategic enough for an organization as important as the African Union Commission. Their view is that very often, they have instead magnified the AUC's failures and inconsistencies at the expense of its achievements.

Use of Social Media: the AU operates a website; Face book and Twitter are now part of the social media network at the AU. The AU website still lacks good editorial supervision. Senior staff members complain that outlook and Intranet are more or less a "dumping ground for material irrelevant to their work and interests.

The Duplication of communications activities: several heads of AU operational departments raised the urgent need for clarification of the Commission's advocacy policy, the framework and guidelines for action and the streamlining of messaging. They recognized that the duplication of advocacy activities by respective Departments brings new constraints to news

production, messaging and information flow within and outside the Organization. Others argued that it is due to the absence of an integrated and harmonized social media policy that several divisions decided to run their own domain names and operate their own websites.

The workshop resolved to contribute to the dissemination and implementation of a number of recommendations. These recommendations included, among others, the following:

1. Enrich AUC website and increase its accessibility to AU workers at Headquarters and field offices;
2. Use www.au.int as top level domain for all AU related websites and sub-domains for standalone websites to harmonize the resources in terms of hosting to reduce duplication of efforts and finances;
3. Set up of an online HR newsletter for dissemination of information relating to staff-related issues;
4. Create and animate a framework for regular interaction and effective communication with AU Members and the RECs leading to the signing of the Protocol on relations with Member States and the RECs.

Outcome of the workshop will be used as input to the draft Communication Strategy to ensure an all-inclusive strategy for 2013-2016. Then it will be submitted to the AUC Leadership for final approval before starting the implementation phase of the strategic document for sensitisation of public opinion on AU programs and activities.