



The African Centre of the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT/CAERT)
B.P 141 Bureau Poste El-Mohammadia Alger, Algérie
Tel/Fax:+213 21 52 01 10/03 78
www.CAERT.org.dz

CALL FOR APPLICATION: INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) is mandated to initiate and disseminate research studies and policy analyses periodically to sensitize Member States of the African Union on current trends in terrorism and violent extremism in Africa. This is with a view to building knowledge-based capacity for preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism around the continent. In view of this, the Centre is inviting qualified researchers to submit proposals for undertaking field research on the following topics:

- a. ***The Nexus Between Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) and Terrorism in the Sahel region;***
- b. ***The Impact of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) on Terrorism in the Sahel-Sahara Region.***

A:The Nexus Between Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime

There has been growing global concerns on the linkage between Terrorism and Transnational Organized (TOC) Crime. The AU and its Member States have expressed their concern over this matter as early as the 1990s. The issue is aptly captured by the letters of the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the 2002 Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. At the international level, the United Nations Security Council has recognized, and expressed concern at the connection between Terrorism and TOC in several of its resolutions: including Resolutions 1373 (2001), 2195 (2014), 2322 (2016), 2347 (2017) and 2368 (2017), and more recently in Resolution 2462 (2019). While most of the African countries could be directly exploited or used as transit points by those engaged in terrorism and TOC, reports have indicated that the Sahel belt presents an escalating corridor for human and drug trafficking, arms trafficking and smuggling, amongst others. ACSRT seeks to gain better understanding of what is really happening, those responsible, how are they organized and what impact their activities have on peace and security in Africa. How are the situations being managed at local, national and regional levels? What gaps should be filled and by which particular stakeholders? We seek experienced researchers to work on these and other questions and other germane questions suggested by field situations. The research specifically seeks to:

1. Assist AU and its Member States to better understand the phenomenon and how it manifests, and facilitated in specific contexts, including how the nexus works to erode state capacity and overall security;
2. Expand on existing knowledge as well as to develop new strategies that can allow for effective interventions where the nexus is present; and,
3. Provide recommendations that would assist AU and its Member States to take appropriately measures while responding to the problem posed by terrorism and TOC syndicates.

B. Impact of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) in the Sahel-Sahara Region;

The phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) poses a serious threat to global peace and stability. Following the collapse of the so-called Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS) Caliphate many analysts indicated possible relocation of foreign terrorist fighters from these areas to terrorism-affected countries, Africa included. While it is possible that ISIS can exploit various existing factors that nurture terrorism to thrive in Africa, and use the continent to regroup, the use of FTFs in terrorism-affected areas in Africa would not be a new phenomenon; Africa-based terrorist groups have always drawn considerable number of foreign fighters from other African countries and beyond. Estimates suggest that more than 50,000 Jihadists from more than 100 countries have traveled to Syria, Iraq and Libya in the last five years to join the Islamic State (ISIS). More than 5,000 FTFs are believed to be fighting in the Sahel, mostly based in Southern Libya. The influx of foreign fighters in conflict-ridden areas is a phenomenon that further complicates terrorism landscape and should be effectively addressed to minimize the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. In this regard, field research is to be carried out to examine the impact of FTFs in the Sahel-Sahara region. Specifically, the research seeks to:

1. Enhance knowledge and determine the impact of FTFs on protracted terrorism and violent extremism situation in the Sahel-Sahara region, and
2. Provide Recommendations on how the FTFs phenomenon can be addressed as part of broader efforts to the prevention and combatting the terrorism and violent extremism in the region, including the role FTFs countries of origin can play.

C. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

1. Selected Researcher will be commissioned to conduct field research on one of the research topics specified above;
2. Each Research is to be conducted in at least three (3) countries within the geographic scope of the specific topic and clearly indicated in the proposal to be submitted;
3. Each selected Researcher will be required to make a presentation on the methodology to be used at project commencement workshop to be validated by experts;
4. The research project is to be commenced and completed within three months after the commencement workshop.

D. KEY DELIVERABLES

1. A final Research Report of length 6,000-8,000 words
2. Two (2)-Policy Briefs on some key issues in the study (about 2,000- 3,000 words each). The modality for the policy briefs would be provided during the methodology workshop to be organized by ACSRT

E. ENTITLEMENT: An amount of **\$10,000** honorarium will be paid to each consultant to cover service fee cost, flight tickets, travel insurance and other incidental expenses. The research proposal should show a breakdown of the expenses. The flight tickets would be issued directly by ACSRT

F. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES

The following qualifications and experience are required:

1. A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, International Relations, Law, Peace and Security related studies, or other Social Science related fields.
2. Evidence of past works relating to Violent Extremism and Terrorism;
3. At least 7 years' experience researching in the field of Security, Law Enforcement and Terrorism and violent extremism required;
4. Experience working in the African countries where the study is to be conducted would be an added advantage.

G. REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are requested to submit the following documents for ACSRT's consideration:

- a. Curriculum Vitae highlighting relevant experience related to the assignment (include samples of two most recent similar works) and at least 2 references.
- b. Research Proposal on the chosen topic not exceeding 8 pages (Times New Roman, 12 font, single spacing) on:
 - understanding and interpretation of the TOR
 - methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment
 - time and activity schedule
- c. Proficiency in at least one of the African Union working languages (English, French, Arabic, Portuguese); knowledge of other working languages would be an added advantage.

H. GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The AU Commission is an equal opportunity organization and qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applications must be delivered to the address below:

African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT,

Head of Administration and Human Resources Unit

P.O. Box 141, Chahid Boukhzara Abdellah Street, El-Mohammadia, Algiers, Algeria

Tel: +213 (0) 21 520082/83 – Ext 237, Fax: +213 21-520374

E-mail: admin@acsrt.org; copy to acsrt-sitroom@acsrt.org

DEADLINE: 14 August 2019, not late than 1700hrs, Algeria local time

Further information can be obtained at the ACSRT address above during office hours 8:00-13:00hrs and 14:00-17:00 hours Local Time.