



## African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism

### 10th Anniversary



**Ambassador Francisco Madeira**

AU Special Representative for Counter Terrorism Cooperation and Director of the ACSRT

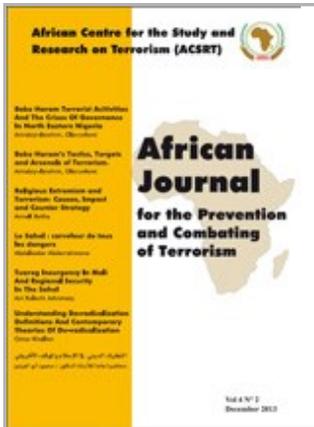
Carrier diplomat with wide experience in mediation, conflict management and resolution, he served his country as ambassador to Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Botswana, Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros and Madagascar. He was member of his government delegation to the Rome peace negotiations with Renamo which ended the country's 16 Year bloody civil war. As member of the UN led Commission, he participated in the preparations that led the country to its first ever multi-party parliamentary and presidential election. The success of this entire process allowed Mozambique to enjoy 20 uninterrupted years of peace and stability. Ambassador Madeira mediated political conflicts in Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe. He was member of Mwalimu Nyerere and Nelson Mandela facilitation teams in the Arusha talks on Burundi ending the recurrent ethnically based political violence in the country. Ambassador Madeira led a mediation process that averted the dismemberment of the Comoros and put a halt to the never ending succession of military coups d'état in the country. The process provided the Comoros with a new name (Union de Comoros), a new flag, and a tailor made constitutional framework that has so far allowed political power to change hands through a smooth, peaceful and regular electoral process. Ambassador Madeira won a seat in Mozambique's National parliament and went on to be minister in his country's government for a consecutive period of 15 years.

#### **About the ACSRT:**

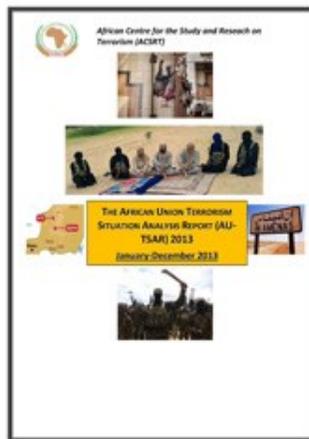
The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) was established in accordance with Section H, paragraphs 19 to 21, of the African Union Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, as well as the relevant decisions of the political organs of the Union, in particular the following: Assembly/AU/Dec.15 (II); EX.CL/Dec.13 (II); EX / CL/Dec.82 (IV) and EX/CL/Dec.126 (V).

#### **The Centre is designed to:**

- ◆ Assist Member States of the African Union in their efforts to prevent and combat terrorism;
- ◆ Provide technical and expert advice on the implementation of the African Union counter-terrorism regimes, in particular, the 1999 OAU Convention and the 2004 Protocol thereto, the 2002 Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, as well as updating and strengthening AU counter terrorism policies and programmes ;
- ◆ Develop and maintain a database on a range of issues relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, particularly on terrorist groups and their activities in Africa, as well as on expertise and technical assistance available. The Data Base as well as the analyses available should be accessible to all AU Member States;
- ◆ promote the coordination and standardization of efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism;
- ◆ Initiate and disseminate research studies and policy analyses periodically to sensitize Member States, based on the current trends, and/or on the demand of Member State(s). The Centre shall publish, periodically its research and analyses, in an "African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism";
- ◆ Develop cooperation and assistance programmes with similar and/or interested institutions at the national, regional, continen-



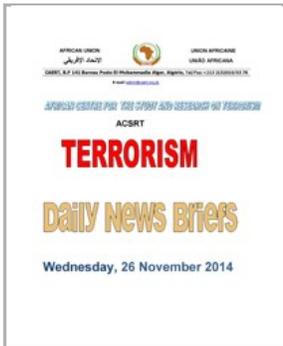
**ACSRT African Journal for the Prevention and combating of Terrorism**



**ACSRT African Union Annual Terrorism Situation Analysis Report**

tal and international levels, in the areas of research, information gathering and analyses on issues relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism;

- ◆ Develop capacity for early warning to encourage early response, integrating the concept of Preventive Management of Crisis;
- ◆ Provide technical and expert advice on how Africa can best contribute in a more meaningful way to the international campaign against terrorism, particularly to the implementation of relevant international instruments by AU Member States;
- ◆ Undertake studies and make recommendations on strengthening and standardization of legal norms and cooperation in matters of information-sharing among Member States and mutual assistance, Extradition, police and border control (including land, maritime and air) in Africa;
- ◆ Conduct studies and analyses on the best strategies and methods for suppressing the financing of terrorism;
- ◆ Organize workshops, seminars, symposia and training programs for enhancing the capacity of Member States and Regional Mechanisms in the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa;
- ◆ Submit annual reports on its activities to the Chairperson of the Commission, for consideration by the policy Organs of the Union. The annual report includes a financial statement on the activities undertaken in the previous year and the budget of activities envisaged for the next fiscal year.



**ACSRT Terrorism Daily News Briefs**



**ACSRT Terrorism Bi-weekly Press Review**



**ACSRT Newsletter**

Since its launch on 13 October 2004, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism created tools and has undertaken a considerable number of Counter-Terrorism related activities aimed at enhancing its efficiency and helping AU Member States to strengthen their capacities in the areas of prevention and fight against terrorism.

### **These activities include:**

### **Publications:**

To keep the AU Commission, member states and African counter terrorism practitioners abreast of what it does and what is happening on the ground in the field of terrorism, the ACSRT has developed tools that allow it to track, study and analyze terrorist incidents, terrorist trends and terrorist developments taking place on the continent and beyond. The collection and processing of these data allows the ACSRT to understand their meaning and implications. The results of this activity are disseminated through the following productions:

- ACSRT "African Journal for the Prevention and combating of Terrorism";
- ACSRT "Terrorism Daily News Briefs";
- ACSRT "Terrorism Biweekly Press Review";
- ACSRT "African Union Annual Terrorism Situation Analysis Report";
- And ACSRT News Letter".

These products can be easily accessed on the ACSRT website together with any other relevant information that the management may deem necessary to share with the community of counter terrorism practitioners.



**Workshop on Strengthening Border Related Counter Terrorism Capacities in the Sahel and the Maghreb through International Databases and Enhanced Cooperation, Coordination and Information Exchange**



**Seminar on “Radicalization, De-radicalization: Experiences and Perspectives”**



**6th Meeting of National and Regional Focal Points of the ACSRT**



**Training course on operational Intelligence analysis**

## **Workshops, Seminars and Symposia**

In the course of each year, the ACSRT organizes a number of training activities for the enhancement of AU Member States scientific, technical and operational counter terrorism capacity. These trainings take the form of workshops, seminars or symposia depending on the type and nature of the subject matter to be tackled. The trainings are directed to CT practitioners at national, regional and continental levels. They can be organized entirely by CAERT or in partnership with the UN, GCTF, EU, or any other international Organization or institution of higher learning on issues of peace and security with which the ACSRT has established cooperation agreements.:

The disciplines administered in the trainings vary in accordance with member states priorities and needs .

The following are some of the subjects administered by the Centre over the past years:

- ◆ Good Practices on Preventing and Denying Terrorists the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom;
- ◆ Training course on operational Intelligence analysis;
- ◆ Strengthening Member States' Border Related Counter Terrorism Capacities through International Databases connectivity;
- ◆ Radicalization, Violent Extremism and De-radicalization;
- ◆ Principles and Methods of Police Evaluation;
- ◆ Enhancing Criminal Justice Response to Terrorism and Organized Crime;
- ◆ Disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders;
- ◆ De-Radicalization in prison settings;
- ◆ Protection of critical infrastructures, Sensitive Sites and VIPs ;
- ◆ Relationship between Terrorism, drugs and arms trafficking and international organized crime;
- ◆ Combating the financing of terrorism;
- ◆ Comprehensive counter terrorism training course;



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Burundi**



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Djibouti**



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Guinea Conakry**



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Uganda**

- ◆ Counter Terrorism Capacity Building on the Use of Undercover Operation and the Protection of Sensitive Information in Counter Terrorism Investigation and Prosecutions ;
- ◆ Development of comprehensive national and regional counter terrorism strategy;
- ◆ Regional hostage negotiation training;
- ◆ Training course detection and neutralization of explosives;
- ◆ Regional multi stakeholders counter terrorism coordination.

### **Evaluation Missions**

In the past 4 years, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) conducted counter terrorism capacity evaluation Missions to a large number of AU Member States. These missions aimed at:

- ◆ Analyzing the capacity of AU Member States to fulfil their CT commitments as outlined in the OAU 1999 convention on the prevention and combating of terrorism, the 2002 AU CT Plan of Action, the 2004 protocol, the Functioning Modalities of the ACSRT, the Code of Conduct regulating the relationship between the ACSRT and the Focal Points as well as other relevant AU CT Decisions and UN CT instruments;
- ◆ Identifying areas in which Member States may require counter terrorism technical assistance for the implementation of relevant AU and UN CT instruments, provide technical and expert advice in this regard and make recommendations on any additional action that may be needed;
- ◆ Complementing international counterterrorism action and promoting cooperation on issues relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism;
- ◆ Helping AU Member States developing strategies for the prevention and combating of terrorism;



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Chad**



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Senegal**



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Gambia**



**The ACSRT evaluation mission to Burkina Faso**

## **ACSRT Database**

The ACSRT has succeeded in developing its own database. Through this tool the Centre collects, processes, organizes, records and keeps information on terrorism, more specifically, on terrorist groups and individuals, terrorist activities and related scourges, and avails this information to the Commission and the member states.

On the other hand, this information enables ACSRT analysts to study and analyze terrorist incidents, terrorist trends and terrorist developments, understand their meaning and implications, and alert the Commission and Member States accordingly, with advice on what to do.

## **ACSRT Portal**

The e-portal is another ACSRT tool aimed at to improving communication and information sharing between the Centre and the focal points and among the focal points themselves.

Through the e-portal, the Focal Points can access a number of tools and resources such as secure messaging system, databases, ACSRT's virtual Library, etc.

## **ACSRT Website**

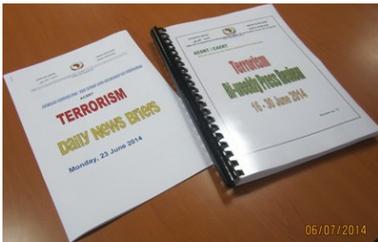
The new ACSRT website streamlined its menus to provide the audience with a quick access to the desired items. Through the ACSRT website visitors can easily access all ACSRT activities; publications as well as AU and UN counter terrorism instruments, links to other specialized institutions.

## **ACSRT Library**

The ACSRT library is steadily increasing the number of its counter terrorism material, in both hard and virtual formats. Focal points can access the content of the library by physically visiting it or through the ACSRT e-portal.



**The ACSRT Situation Room**



**ACSRT publications: ACSRT Terrorism Daily News Briefs and ACSRT Terrorism Bi-weekly Press Review.**



**ACSRT African Journal for the Prevention and combating of Terrorism**

## **ACSRT Situation Room**

Understanding and effectively combating terrorism requires continuous tracking and monitoring of real time terrorist events and developments, updates on information, studies, analysis and research on terrorist incidents, terrorist groups and their activities. To this end, the ACSRT, in synergy with the African Union Commission, has been able to operationalize its Situation Room. Through the Situation Room, data processing clerks can scan and access about 1400 websites 24/7 and retrieve, in four languages, relevant information on terrorism in Africa and the rest of the world.

The ACSRT Situation Room uses Africa Media Monitor (**AMM**) system developed in collaboration with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) for advanced web mining and information extraction.

This information is subsequently extracted, processed and availed to AU Member States through the ACSRT **Daily News Briefs** and **Bi-weekly Press Review**.

The **Daily News Briefs** is a daily media review which gathers news on terrorist incident, groups, individuals and their activities in Africa and around the world.

**Bi-Weekly Press Review** compiles analytical reports and research material on current terrorism developments in different African countries and around the world.

These two products keep the ACSRT community abreast of Terrorism-related news, digests and analysis published on different websites all over the world.

## **The African Union Terrorism Situation Analysis Report**

Tracking and analyzing terrorist developments can help identify correctly and better understand important aspects of a terrorist act. The identity of the perpetrator and his or her modus operandi, the geographical location of the incident and the political, economic and social environment prevailing in that location or its surroundings,



**The ACSRT signed MoU with SADC**



**The ACSRT signed MoU with CISSA**



**The ACSRT signed MoU with NDC**

the target, victims, drivers and implications of the incident, as well as other relevant information thereto, can be obtained through such tracking and analysis. This information is crucial in the minimization of the impact and consequences of a terrorist act as it allows law enforcement agencies to successfully identify, monitor, investigate, intercept terrorists, disrupt their activities, arrest and bring them to justice.

Informed by this reality, the ACSRT publishes during the first quarter of each calendar year, the African Union Terrorism Situation Analysis Report containing information, statistical data, graphs and prospective analysis of terrorist acts, terrorist incidents and terrorist developments that have occurred during the previous year.

### **African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism**

The ACSRT periodically publishes the "African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism". Each volume of the journal contains articles which address specific issues relating to terrorism. The journal is a platform where African and other intellectuals, academics, researchers and analysts brainstorm and publish their work on different aspects of terrorism on the continent.

The aim of these publications is not only to provide answers to theoretical questions, but also to call the attention of policy makers to important problems and challenges posed by current terrorist trends and developments in order for them to come up with effective solutions.

### **Memorandums of Understanding**

In order to ensure better coordination and co-operation with the regional economic communities (RECs) and like minded studies and research institutions, the ACSRT promotes the signing of agreements and memorandum of understanding. In this context, the ACSRT has so far signed memorandum of understanding with CISSA, SADC, NDC, Sudan Higher Security Institute.

Presently, discussions are underway for the signing of similar instruments with UFL, CEN SAD and UNCTED.