

3-5 March 2014

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



From 3 to 5 March 2014, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT/CAERT), and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) jointly organized, at ACSRT's Headquarters in Algiers, a workshop for the Sahel and Maghreb Member States, on "Strengthening Border Related Counter Terrorism Capacities in the Sahel and the Maghreb through International Databases and Enhanced Cooperation, Coordination and Information Exchange".

This workshop is an effort by the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen the counter terrorism capacity of the AU Sahel and Maghreb Countries by providing them with technical tools for the exploitation of international databases, securing identity and travel documents, Strengthening immigration controls and people processing, reinforcing cash-courier controls, improving aviation and cargo security, improving maritime security, strengthening the control of illegal movement of small arms and light weapons and strengthening States' capacities to collect, analyze and use information.

Participants to the workshop were customs, immigration



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Practical exercise

and intelligence officials drawn from eleven (11) AU Sahelo – Saharan Countries namely Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia. They were trained by experts from INTERPOL, International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Customs Organization (WCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the ACSRT. The experts were committed to make the participants retain the maximum amount of information and knowledge. Experts focus was on the development of real skills and capacity to identify practical solutions that meet participants' real day to day needs at their workplace.

The training program was interactive and hands-on. It provided practical and useful information which can be immediately applied in any scenario.

Throughout the practical exer-

cises training, participants were reasonably able to use INTERPOL and its tools such as: (I-24/7), MIND and FIND, Role of NCBs, CT Focal Points network, Baobab and Main INTERPOL databases.

They also acquired knowledge about the International Organization for Migration (IOM) methodology on verification and control of cross border movements.

They built skills and attitudes necessary to competently manage the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) to be used in the area of risk management and targeting.

They developed awareness of principles of coordination and informal information sharing as well as principles and functions of the local coordinating committees (airports, ports and lands).

They became acquainted with the World Customs Organization's (WCO) tools such as

CEN as well as the Role and functions of RILO (Regional Intelligence Liaison Office) and their national liaison offices.

Participants realized many issues related to border control cannot be solved by one country alone. In this regard, the workshop was an eye opener as it demonstrated to participants the absolute need for inter-state and inter agency co-operation, coordination and information exchange. Issues such as fighting insurgency, terrorism, and transnational crime require cooperation from all nations.

The workshop allowed the participants to master useful steps to improve border control and enhanced bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation. Ambassador Madeira commended the participants, experts and resource persons for the demonstration of exceptionally high standard of knowledge in their respective areas of expertise.

**4-6 February 2014**

## **Workshop on the implementation of the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by terrorists**



**Ambassador Madeira, ACSRT Director**

**T**he African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) held, from 4 to 6 February 2014, at its Headquarters in Algiers, a workshop on the implementation of the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by terrorists.

The workshop was organized for the benefit of 11 Sahelo-Saharan AU Member States more directly exposed to the threat of Kid-

napping for Ransom (KFR) by terrorists.

It was a platform for open discussion, awareness raising and exchange of experience between member states and other relevant stakeholders on the KFR problem, the challenges it poses and the pernicious consequences of ransom payment. The workshop sought to identify and formulate strategies and standard operating procedures for implementing the Algiers Memorandum.

This workshop is the first of the four planned regional workshops on the same subject: two dedicated to AU Member States in the North, Sahel and West African regions, and the other two for Member States in the East Africa and the Horn of Africa Region.

The workshop was attended by more than 80 participants from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Tunisia, as well as experts from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, USA, Canada, European Union Commission and the United Nations.

The 10 sessions of the workshop covered a broad range of issues including:

The reasons that lead terrorists and criminals to use KFR as tactics; the local and regional vulnerabilities that favour terrorists' use of KFR; Comparison and contrast of trends in KFR tactics regionally and internationally; discussion on the

broader economic and societal effects of KFR; identification of KFR-relevant international, regional, and other frameworks and agreements; discussion on the stipulations of international and/or regional frameworks related to KFR and how they are being applied; discussion on the challenges to the adoption or implementation of good practices; evaluation of different approaches to public awareness and prevention of terrorist use of KFR; explanation of the importance of developing security and criminal intelligence sources in KFR networks pre-crisis; discussion on benefits and challenges of sharing information with the private sector and methods for so doing; developing action plans and strategies for implementing or improving prevention efforts; discus-

sion on interrupting kidnappings methods (e.g., tip lines) and their successes / challenges; explanation of model processes and procedures for investigations and interventions; comparison of different approaches of cooperation and coordination across disciplines and borders. Developing action plans to help implement or improve integration and information sharing efforts; media Engagement Strategies and other communications management strategies; working with Families and the Private Sector; prosecutions and Rule of Law.

AU delegates valued the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the frameworks, law enforcement mechanisms, type of military action and intelligence operations that may be re-

sorted to to effectively combat the use of KFR by terrorists and deny them the benefits of hostage taking.

They also expressed their gratitude to the ACSRT for organizing such high quality event which significantly contributed to enhance their technical and scientific capacity on the KFR phenomenon.

Ambassador Francisco Madeira expressed appreciation for the experts' excellent presentations and the lively discussions that ensued. He thanked participants and the resource persons for their contribution to the successful outcome of the workshop. He highlighted the good cooperation between the ACSRT and GCTF which led to the fruitful results of the workshop.



Participants through the Opening Ceremony

19-20 may 2014

## 5th meeting of the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services (HISS) of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 19 and 20 May 2014. The following countries participated in the meeting: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. In addition to the Commission of the African Union (AU), the AU Mission for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL), the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee of the Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), the Community of the Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the North African Regional Capability (NARC), as well as the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), also participated in the meeting.

The meeting was held within the framework of the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in the Sahelo-Saharan Region. It was a follow-up to the previous meetings of the HISS of the countries of the region, held respec-

tively in Bamako, on 18 April 2013, in Abidjan, on 20 and 21 June 2013, in N'Djamena, on 10 September 2013, and in Niamey, on 17 and 18 February 2014.

The meeting reviewed the evolution of the security situation in the region, based on the overall presentation made by the AU High Representative for

Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, (ACSRT), in his presentation, informed the participants of the capacity building activities carried out by the ACSRT especially the Workshop on strengthening border related counter-terrorism capacities in the Sahel through international databases and enhanced coopera-

tion, coordination and information exchanges, held in Algiers, from 3 to 5 March 2014. the Ambassador also emphasized the progress made in the efforts concerning the elaboration of an African Arrest warrant, particularly the consultations held by ACSRT with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust). Participants urged for the pursuit of these efforts to facilitate the finalization as early as possible of the elaboration pro-

cess of the African Arrest Warrant.

African heads of intelligence have agreed to immediately launch a regional training program for security officers. The training program will be led by the African Centre for the Study and Research on terrorism (ACSRT).



**Ambassador Francisco Madeira**

Mali and the Sahel, former President Pierre Buyoya, as well as the contributions made by the ACSRT, CISSA, UFL and the countries of the region.

**Ambassador Francisco Madeira**, AU Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Special Representative and Director of the African

## African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism



One of the ACSRT's tasks is to undertake research and studies on terrorism, terrorist groups and individuals, monitor terrorist trends and developments for the benefit of AU Member States. In this context, the ACSRT periodically publishes the "African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism". Each volume of the journal contains articles which address specific subject matter issues related to terrorism. The articles in each

volume are products of dedicated studies and research carried out by prominent African experts.

The goal is not only to provide answers to theoretical questions, but also to attract the attention of policy makers on important problems and challenges posed by current terrorist trends and developments and the way they could be addressed.

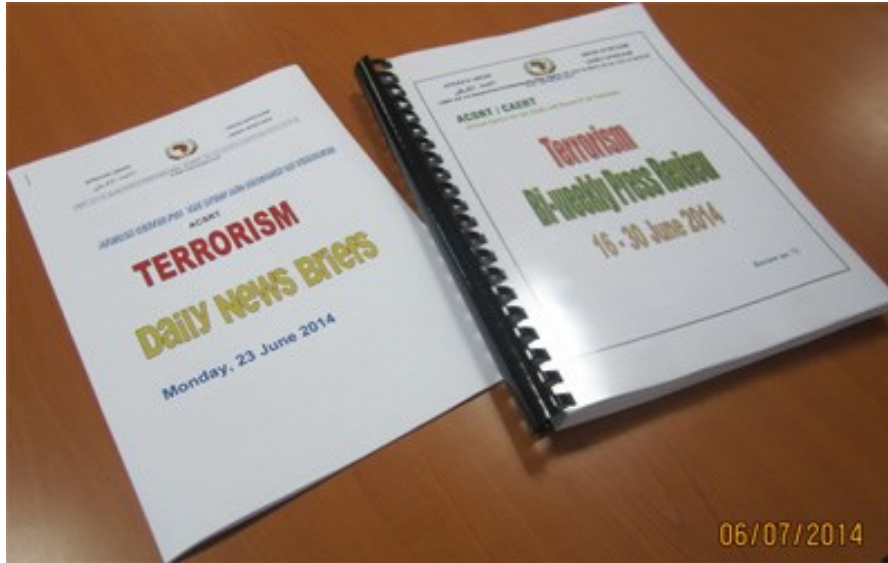
The journal is also designed to be used for

brainstorming, the sharing of experiences and best practices among counter-terrorism practitioners, officials in the areas of security, judiciary, customs and immigration as well as the community of researchers and experts on Counter-terrorism and organized crimes.

**ACSRT Journals for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism are available on the ACSRT website**

(<http://www.caert.org.dz>)

## ACSRT Situation Room



mining and information extraction. By dint of **AMM** the ACSRT Situation Room team can scan and access about 1400 websites 24/7 and retrieve real time information on terrorist incident and developments in four languages.

These information is subsequently extracted and availed to the AU Member

**U**nderstanding and combating the current terrorism threats, requires continuous 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 operationalized the ACSRT Situation Room.

The ACSRT Situation Room team is using The Africa Media Monitor (**AMM**) system developed in collaboration with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) for advanced web



**Mr . Dahmani, Network Administrator and Acting Head of Database Unit with Mr. Tindano, Data processing clerk**



**Nashwa Kamel ACSRT webmaster, working with the AU Situation Room team**

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 dif-

ferent websites.

The **Situation Room** allows the ACSRT team to monitor, gather and ana-

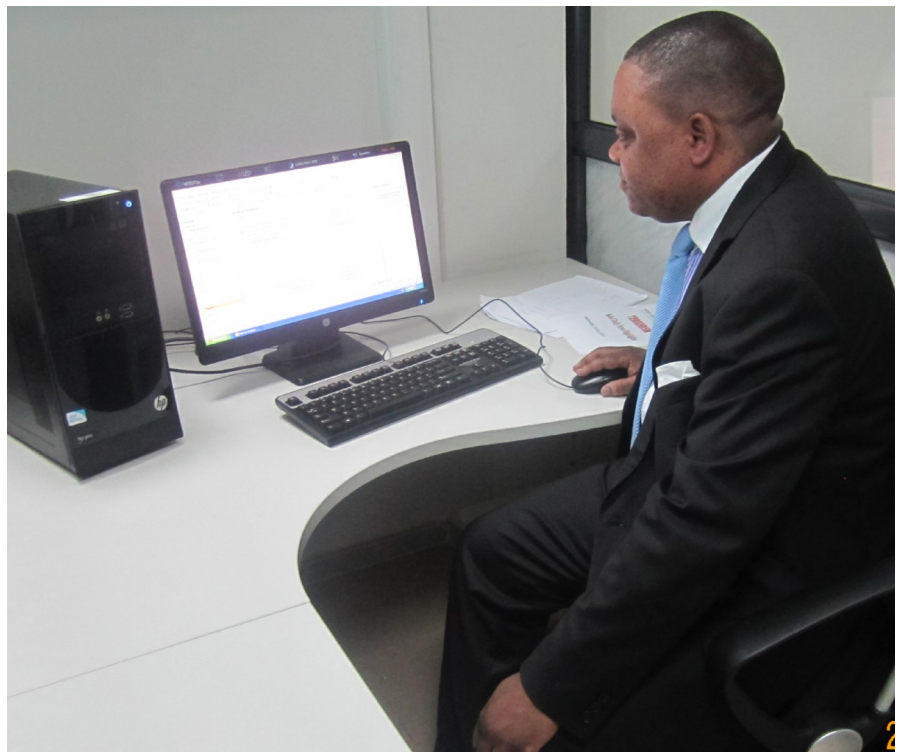
lyze real time information related to terrorist incident, terrorist groups, and other organized criminal activities, etc.

**N.B. The Daily News Briefs and the Bi-weekly Press Review** are distributed by email and also published on the ACSRT website (<http://www.caert.org.dz>).

**ACSRT Newsletter**

**Website:**  
[www.caert.org.dz](http://www.caert.org.dz)

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**Moise Leckiby, ACSRT Documentalist**

## Official Visits to ACSRT

**13 July 2013**

### **Newly appointed Ambassador of China pays courtesy call on ACSRT**



**O**n 13 July 2013, the newly appointed Ambassador of China to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Excellency YANG Guangyu, paid a courtesy call on the ACSRT.

During this curtesy and friendly visit, Ambassador Madeira, AU Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Special Representative and Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), briefed the new Chinese ambassador on the latest developments and statistics on terrorism threats in Africa and highlighted ACSRT efforts to promote counterterrorism cooperation and strengthen the CT capacity of AU Member States.

Ambassador Madeira expressed appreciation to the existing partnership and cooperation between the ACSRT and China in the Counterterrorism area.

The two Ambassadors discussed ways to further develop this partnership and cooperation and, to this effect, agreed to maintain regular contacts.

15-16 April 2014

**Belgian and Grec Ambassadors Visit CAERT**

Frédéric Meurice, Belgian Ambassador to Algeria



H.E. Ambassador Ifigenia Kontolenotos, Ambassador of Greece to Algeria.

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 separate meetings with H.E. Frédéric Meurice, Belgian Ambassador to Algeria and H.E. Ambassador Ifigenia Kontolenotos, Ambassador of Greece to Algeria.

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

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 achieve-

ment for the AU with regard to the concrete implementation of its counter-terrorism regime. CAERT is a technical body of the African Union Commission. Its mission is to assist African Member States implement international and continental counterterrorism instruments.

He added that since its establishment, the ACSRT 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 and others.

Ambassador Madeira under-

lined that counter-terrorism is emerging as a key area of cooperation between the ACSRT and the United Nations, the European Union as well as individual 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 that it had provided them with an opportunity to better understand the functioning modalities of the African Union Counter Terrorism Regime.

They also emphasized the vital importance of building cooperation with the ACSRT in the fight against terrorism.

**6 April 2014**

## **A High level Delegation of UN officials visits CAERT**



On 6 April 2014 a high-level delegation of United Nations officials led by Ms. Cristina Amaral, Director, UNDP Representative and Resident Coordinator, visited the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT). Their discussion with Ambassador Francisco Madeira Special Representative of the AU Chairperson for Counter Terrorism Cooperation and Director of the ACSRT focused on the African Union's Counter Terrorism Strategy and the current Terrorism situation in different African Regions.

Ambassador Madeira used the opportunity to inform the delegation about the role of the African Union on the counter terrorism front in the Continent and around the world.

He also highlighted the efforts undertaken by the ACSRT to address the scourge of Terrorism. He clarified that the ACSRT also provides a forum for interaction and cooperation among Member States and Regional Mechanisms on CT issues.

The Centre plays an im-

portant role in the implementation of the AU's CT frame works in collaboration with a number of regional and international partners to ensure coherent and coordinated CT action on the continent.

The delegation stated that terrorism poses a real and serious threat to peace and security on the African Continent and beyond. Terrorism is a global threat that knows no border, nationality or region, a challenge that the international community must tackle together.

The delegation also agreed to promote the strategic priorities of the AUC in the areas of democracy, good governance, promotion and protection of human rights, transparency and justice.

Ambassador Madeira was delighted to welcome the delegation to ACSRT and expressed his willingness to work with the different UN agencies in various areas.

**1 April 2014**

## **Chinese Ambassador Pays a Working Visit to CAERT**



**O**n 1st April, H.E. LIU Yuhe, Ambassador of China to Algeria, paid a working visit to the ACSRT to learn more about the African Union Counter terrorism strategy and the role of the ACSRT in the implementation of this important African counter terrorism instrument. Ambassador LIU Yuhe indicated that the international and regional counter-terrorism situation is undergoing profound and complex changes. These changes pose new threats and challenges to both China and Africa. They require the two sides to further strengthen counter terrorism cooperation and coordi-

nation in order to safeguard their common security interests.

Ambassador Madeira, made mention of China's CT scholarship program agreed with the ACSRT. Through this program, every year since 2010, African countries have been sending to the People's Republic of China 25 officials in average, for a three week training course in different areas of counter terrorism. These trainings, totally funded by the Chinese Government, have proven to be of extreme usefulness to the Continent. They have provided African counter terrorism practitioners with

solid technical and operational skills allowing them to be more effective in the theatre of operations.

The two leaders exchanged views on the current terrorism situation on the continent and the ever-changing nature of terrorist threat as well as the capacity of terrorists to adapt and identify other treacherous methods to carry on with their lethal activities. They paid great attention to the fact that terrorists are exploiting the new information and communications technologies to recruit, radicalize, finance their activities and incite youths to commit acts of terrorism. They agreed that effective counter-terrorism strategy requires sound policies, concerted effort and multifaceted co-operation.

Ambassador LIU Yuhe underscored the importance of the efforts to monitor and stem terrorism in Africa to avoid it spreading all over the World and expressed readiness of his government to assist the ACSRT to achieve its goals.

**26 February 2014**

## **AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL), Former President of Burundi Pierre Buyoya Visited the ACSRT**



**O**n 26 February 2014, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, AU Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Special Representative and Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, together with ACSRT staff members, received a delegation led by President Pierre Buyoya, AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL).

The visit was aimed at acquainting ACSRT and MISAHEL with the mandate and activities of each other, align and streamline common areas of activities

with a view to designing a cooperation modality that reflects coherence, avoids overlapping and ensures an effective and proactive complementarity.

H.E. President Buyoya indicated that MISAHEL was established to ensure AU contribution to the efforts to stabilize the situation in Mali and the Sahel to combat insecurity, promote development and bring peace and stability to the region. To this effect, MISAHEL adopts a holistic approach which comprises political, security, economic and socio-cultural factors. In pursuing these objectives, pri-

ority is put on reinforcing good governance, combating insecurity in all its forms (terrorism, organized crime and armed banditry,...) and promoting development.

President Buyoya stressed that real peace and stability can only emerge if our efforts to achieve these goals go hand in hand with the effort to promote development. In so doing, special attention should be paid to gender issues and the youth.

President Buyoya and Ambassador Madeira agreed to work together to come up with a work programme and co-operation modality that will enhance the effectiveness of the AU action in Mali and the Sahel Region in general. They identified Counter- Violent Extremism (CVE) as one of their initial areas of joint activity.

**23 February 2014**

## **Visit of the German Federal Police and Interior Ministry Delegation to the ACSRT**



**O**n 23 February 2014, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, AU Special Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Representative and Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism and ACSRT staff members, received a German Delegation led by Mr. Waldemar KINDLER, Retired Director, Advisor to the Ministry of the Interior for North Africa, former president of the County Police in Bavaria. The other members of the delegation were Mr. Steffen RUSS, Senior Police Superintendent, Head of IK2 Division, BKA and Mr.

Mirko HEINKE, Federal Police Technical Director in the Ministry of Interior and Mr. Frank Hoppenheit, BKA-VB Algiers.

The ultimate objective of the visit was to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the ACSRT and German Federal Police (BKA).

Ambassador Madeira extended a warm welcome to the German Delegation, and said that the visit bore testimony to the growing bilateral cooperation between the ACSRT and the German Federal Police (BKA). He greatly appreciated BKA's assistance especially regarding CT capacity building in

the Sahelo – Saharan region. He expressed wish to see continued enhancement and consolidation of the present fruitful cooperation.

The two parties exchanged views on the current terrorism situation in North Africa and Sahel regions and discussed areas in which joint CT training and knowledge dissemination can take place on the continent, with particular focus on the Sahel Region

The German delegation highly lauded ACSRT's work and reiterated the readiness of the German government to assist ACSRT in accomplishing its goals.

At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Madeira and his guests expressed confidence in the successful continuation of their multi-dimensional bi-lateral cooperation.

**17–19 JUIN 2014****Participation du CAERT à la Série des Conférences Exposition Protection & Management 2014 d' IFSEC Organisée par UBM Live****CONTEXTE ET REPRESENTATION**

IFSEC International avait invité le Centre Africain d'Etude et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme (CAERT) à venir découvrir, dans le cadre de la série des conférences expositions « Protection & Management 2014 », organisé par UBM Live à Excel Exhibition Centre, Londres du 17 au 19 Juin 2014; les produits et solutions actuellement disponibles sur le marché international présenté par les délégués des firmes de renommée pour répondre au déficit de sécurité posé par les criminels de

tout ordre et plus spécialement ceux du terrorisme et des crimes organisés transnationaux.

Le CAERT a participé à cette série qui comprend les événements: IFSEC International, FIREX International, FACILITIES Show, SERVICE MANAGEMENT Expo, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Expo et SAFETY & HEALTH Expo en se faisant représenter par son spécialiste en équipement de prévention et lutte contre le terrorisme, Mr. RUBAGUMYA Jean Claude. Les autres participants à cette série des conférences exposition, au

nombre de 45000 dont 1700 exposants et 500 présentateurs, étaient des exposants, des conférenciers, des experts et des officiels dans les administrations œuvrant dans les secteurs de transport, énergie, santé publique, protection civile, communication, télécommunication, produit chimique, infrastructure commerciale, réacteurs nucléaires, infrastructure et gouvernementale.

**BUT ET OBJECTIF DU CAERT POUR LA PARTICIPATION**

Le CAERT est une structure au sein du Départe-

ment Paix et Sécurité de la Commission de l'Union Africaine. Le CAERT conseille les Etats membres de l'Union sur tous les aspects de la menace terroriste sur le continent africain avec comme objectif de contribuer au renforcement de capacité des Etats membre de l'Union Africaine pour prévenir et lutter contre le terrorisme dans le but ultime de l'éradication définitive de la menace terroriste sur le continent africain.

Dans ce cadre, le CAERT organise régulièrement au niveau international des rencontres interprofessionnelles réunissant les représentants des Etats membres de l'Union Africaine pour échanger les informations pour appuyer les opérations de prévention et lutte contre le terrorisme en Afrique. Le CAERT échange de même ses informations professionnelles avec d'autres partenaires dans le cadre de la coopération internationale d'appuis aux opérations antiterroristes à savoir : «détection des explosifs, collecte des renseignements, identification des armes à feu, Contrôle des

médiats, collecte des pièces à conviction, technologies et gestions des crises après attaques ».

Le CAERT a participé à la série des conférences expositions « Protection & Management 2014 » pour échanger durant le temps du déroulement de la conférence exposition les contacts professionnels avec des partenaires internationaux pour faciliter la collecte des informations sur les produits et les solutions de sécurité et pouvoir mettre à jour son programme de renforcement des capacités de prévention et lutte contre le terrorisme au profit des Etats Membres de l'Union Africaines.

### **RESULTATS ES-COMPTE**

Le CAERT a obtenu à partir du document « OFFICIAL SERIES CATALOGUE, Protection & Management 2014, Excel London 2014 remis à l'occasion de la participation indiquant 1700 contacts avec profil et catégorie de produits et solutions de sécurité offerts par chaque entreprise. Le CAERT a

identifié, sur base des informations issues des contacts reçus, plus de 34 firmes annonçant des innovations réalisées dans l'ensemble des domaines de l'antiterrorisme dans l'industrie de la vidéo surveillance et control de périmètre, gestion des alarmes et intrusions, Access control, scanners des bagages intelligent building, ICT et IT & cyber sécurité, villes sûres « safe cities » et de lutte anti incendie.

Le CAERT mettra en valeur ses programmes de renforcement de capacité avec les informations pertinentes issues du cadre de collaboration d'IFSEC dans les séries des conférences exposition PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT2014 organisé par UBM Live.

08-19 JUNE 2014

## National Training Course on the Fight against Terrorism for Mauritania, Nouakchott



Group Picture

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, represented by Col. Emmanuel Christian MOUAYA POUYI and Mr. Elias BENYU participated in a **National Training Course on the Fight against Terrorism** organized and conducted by Institute of Security Studies (ISS) in Nouakchott, Mauritania from 08 to 19 June 2014.

The training was organised in the furtherance of ISS' regional and national counter terrorism capacity building programme in West Africa.

The programme drew 33 participants from the Mauritanian security services that included Police, National Guard, National Gendarmerie, National Intelligence Services, National Army and the Customs Department.

Trainers were drawn from var-

ious organizations including African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT); ISS; GIABA; DINBAR Associates-an integrated border management organization based in Nairobi, Kenya; experts from Mauritanian, Burkinabe and Nigerien services as well as independent subject matter experts.

Participants were taken through a comprehensive package of counter terrorism topics that include:

- Overview of terrorism and threat of terrorism;
- Evolution of terrorism and associated crimes;
- Judicial aspects in the fight against terrorism (international, continental and regional legal instruments);
- ACSRT and the fight against terrorism at continental level-Operational aspects

The role of operational intelligence in the fight against terrorism;

Judicial responses to terrorism in Mauritania;

The role of INTERPOL in the fight against terrorism;

Territorial and border surveillance;

Operations planning and coordination;

Critical infrastructure protection, Incident response (intervention and management);

Hostage situation management and; Anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism.

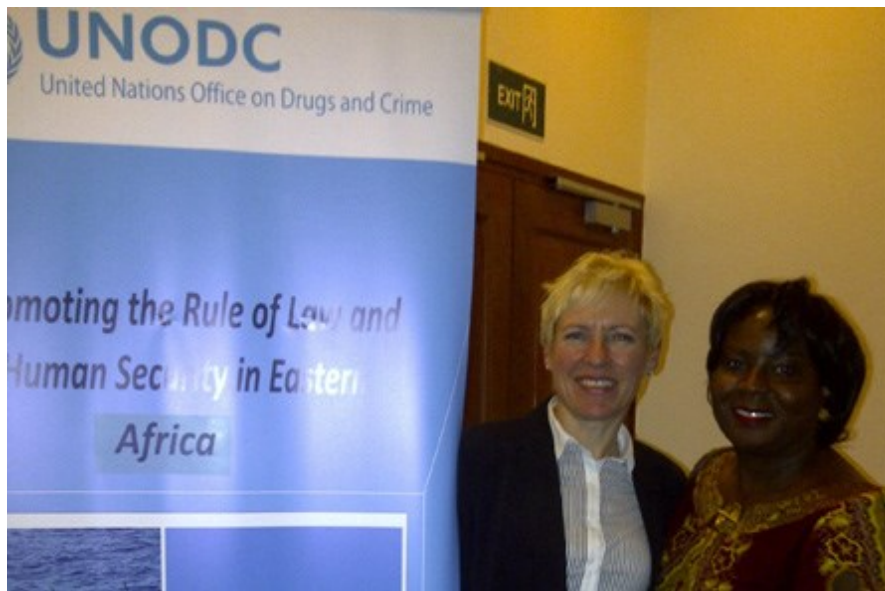
The programme was a blend of in-house and outdoor practical sessions.

The presentations by Col. MOUAYA POUYI included the role of AU and ACSRT in the continental fight against terrorism, the linkages, structures and networks that exist from the continental level cascading down to individual Member States. He also recognised the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's efforts towards the fight against terrorism in the region and underscored the need to have fusion centres within the country itself. He also presented on the AU legal framework in the fight against terrorism.

The course ended with the certification of participants.

10-13 June 2014

## Expert Meeting on Developing a Regional Mechanism for International Cooperation in Criminal Matters to Address Transnational Organized Crime in Eastern Africa



Judith Van der Merwe (ACSRT) Veronique Write (WACAP)

### Mechanism of the conference:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in conjunction with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has organized an “Expert Meeting on developing Regional Mechanisms for the International Cooperation in Criminal Matters to address Trans-National Organized Crime in East Africa” which was held from 10-13 June 2014 in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. The ACSRT was represented at the meeting by **Ms. Judith van der Merwe**, counter-terrorism Analyst at the Africa Centre for the Study and Research on Ter-

rorism (ACSRT/CAERT) responsible for East and southern African regions. Other invitees were from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, Tanzania, Djibouti, Namibia, Burkina Faso, IGAD, EAC, WACAP, Interpol, Eurojust, UNODC, Indian Ocean Commission, and ARINSA, and various UN agencies.

### Purpose of the conference:

The purpose of this meeting, was to discuss the setting up of a regional network of central authorities responsible for international cooperation in criminal matters and prosecutors specialized in organized

crime (especially drug trafficking) for purposes of facilitating the requesting and granting of quick, effective international cooperation such as extradition and mutual legal assistance. Such a network could ultimately be connected to other regional networks such as the *West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors*<sup>1</sup> and the *Network of Prosecutors specialized in Organized Crime (REFCO)* in Central America with the aim of extending those established cooperative links.

The purpose of such a network, will be, to strengthen knowledge and capacities in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters within the region and to support capacity-building for the prosecution of drug trafficking and other forms of cross-border crimes.

The conference also aims at building upon existing UNODC programmes and strategies including those contained in the *Global Programme to Assist Member States to Support Capacity to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime (The Global Programme against Organized and Serious Crime)* by introducing uniformity and standardized approach in im-

plementation of similar or related programmes and projects, and benefitting from knowledge and expertise accumulated in-house. The *Global Programme against Organized and Serious Crime* has as objective the establishment and support for the implementation of networks of central authorities' and prosecutors, as well as law enforcement actors.

The aim is also to eventually enhance Eastern African region response capacity to address inter-regional transnational organized crime, including illicit drug trafficking. The *Regional Program for East Africa* focuses on *Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa*, and especially its sub-program on countering illicit trafficking in and various forms of organized crime. It was identified as the main vehicle for service-delivery to countries within the East African region.

### The Way Forward

In order to enhance awareness about the economic, social, health and security impact of serious and trans-national organized crime activities, among policy-makers and to secure political commitment and support for criminal justice initiatives, States of the region should, in cooperation with regional and international organizations as well as civil society, intensify awareness raising activities (e.g. sensitiza-

tion campaigns, participation in meetings, inclusion in training programmes etc.), for policy makers and other relevant stakeholders about the types of crimes and the negative impact of these crimes at national and regional levels;

States should ratify and implement existing regional and international treaties and instruments and recommendations of international and regional bodies as appropriate.

Where needed, the States of the region should strengthen and harmonize national legislation with the requirements of regional and international Conventions, Treaties and other international legal instruments. Amongst the legal instruments that can be very useful are the *AU Model Law* and the *AU Plan of Action*. There should be the possibility of institutionalizing these central authorities where the need arises.

The States of the region should establish an informal network/mechanism for international legal cooperation for central authorities and prosecutors modeled after and building on other existing regional and thematic networks, including in particular the *Indian Ocean Judicial Commission*, the *Sahel Judicial Platform*, the *West Africa Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors*, *Eurojust* and *ARINSA*;

In order to improve the capa-

bilities of the Central Authorities, States should harmonize procedures for international cooperation in criminal matters in the region;

States in the region should consider improving coordination between the various regional organizations and the United Nations and other international organizations;

States need to give support to inter-regional cooperation, targeting source and destination countries, through the linking of judicial cooperation networks;

Tools should be developed that are tailored to the needs of practitioners in the region to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters and other areas related to organized crime and terrorism;

States in the region ought to consider establishing law enforcement cooperation mechanisms, such as *National Fusion Centers* and *Trans-National Organized Crime Units (TOCU's)*, for the collection, analysis and sharing of criminal intelligence. In this regard the *AU African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism* can be an invaluable tool through their Focal Points and existing Fusion Centers to expand the intelligence gathering and research capabilities of States in the region in so far as Transnational Organized Crime is concerned.

6-26 May 2014

## seminar on Anti-Terrorism for English Speaking African Countries organized by Shandong Police College in Jinan, Shandong Province



Participants at Shandong Police College Training

In the context of the People's Republic of China's commitment to strengthen global cooperation and exchange of information in the fight against terrorism, and, with the view of promoting closer collaboration between the African Centre for the study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and the Chinese Authorities, two ACSRT staff, together with representatives of 9 African countries, attended, from 6-26 May 2014, a seminar on *Anti-Terrorism for English*

*Speaking African Countries* financed by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and organized by the Shandong Police College in Jinan, Shandong Province.

The ACSRT delegation consisted of Ms. *Nashwa Kamel* (webmaster, Database Unit) and Mr. *Elias Benyu* (Training Specialist, Training and Equipment Unit). Other invited participants were 18 senior officers from the police, gendarmerie, armed forces, internal security and intelli-

gence agencies, from Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

The subject of discussion in this seminar was a platform for the sharing of experience, strengthening co-operation, coordination and mutual assistance on counter terrorism issues between China, the ACSRT and the English speaking countries of Africa.

It is also worth noting that the annual exchanges under which this seminar has taken



Public Safety Bureau in Qing Zhou City



Command Centre in Weifang City

place, fall within the context of an agreement signed in 2009 between the Chinese Government and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT). Since then, 25 officials from AU Member States, on average, have been benefiting from this 3 week type of training, fully funded by the People's Republic of China. These trainings have proven to be of extreme usefulness to the Continent. They have provided African counter terrorism practitioners with solid technical and operational skills allowing them to be more effective in the theatre of operations.

This Shandong training course was carried out in two stages: the first stage consisted of a series of lectures on different counter terrorism subjects. The second stage consisted of study tours de-

signed to familiarize the participants with China's Culture and History.

### **The training topics included:**

- China counter terrorism Policy;
- Anti-terrorism in finance;
- Anti-terrorism law in China;
- Basic knowledge of terrorism;
- Overview of intelligence in the anti-terrorism;
- Anti-terrorism intelligence;
- Public Security management system in China;
- Public Security prevention and control system in China;
- Police combating skills;
- Policing command system;
- Anti-terrorism countermeasures;
- Anti-terrorism Negotiation;
- Cyber terrorism.

The study tours consisted of visits to Chinese cultural and

historical places in Xining and Beijing.

As a part of the training, participants also visited the Command Centre Building and Public Safety Bureau in Weifang City and Qing Zhou city respectively in Shandong Province. During the visit, participants were able to discuss a number of issues with the Chinese officials and gather a wealth of information on different type of communication systems and technology. They were able to identify which tools worked well, how technological innovations are assisting them in their security efforts and where gaps still exist. The participants were profoundly impressed by the commitment and dedication of the officials in ensuring that the public is safe and well protected. Their leadership and expertise in discharging their responsibilities were simply remarkable.

20 March 2014

## Ethiopia National Workshop on 'Promoting International Instruments to Counter Terrorism' Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Group Picture

The African Centre for the Study and Re-search on Terrorism, represented by Mr. Elias BENYU (Training Specialist), participated in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-Security Sector programme (ISSP)'s **Ethiopia National Workshop on 'Promoting International Instruments to Counter Terrorism'** held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 20 March 2014.

The workshop was organised in the framework of IGAD-SSP national capacity building which aims to capacitate IGAD Member States in the proactive fighting of terrorism in the region. The main objective of the one day national

workshop was to promote legal instruments to counter terrorism and enhancement of a rule of law based approach to counter terrorism in Ethiopia. The workshop focused on encouraging the Ethiopia government to ratify (where it had not) and to domesticate international, regional and national legal instruments to counter terrorism. In particular the workshop sought to explore whether domestic counter terrorism law(s) in the Federal Republic of Ethiopia comprehensively criminalize offences outlined in various international and regional conventions against terrorism, and multiple UN Security

Council resolutions.

The workshop sought to familiarize participants with the substance and level of application of national counter terrorism laws, and with the promotion rule of law approach in countering terrorism in Ethiopia, as the country continues to enact several laws and ratify various international conventions against terrorism. The platform further explored the utility of international instruments and their place in domestic law and practice. In relation to domestic counter terrorism provisions, the workshop sought to determine how comprehensive and extensive the laws were; and more particularly whether they provide, *inter alia*, for protection of witnesses and other judicial officers, enhance the counter terrorism investigative tools, criminalize preparatory and financial offences relating to terrorism and whether they support internal coordination and international cooperation.

The national workshop brought together close to 30 senior counter terrorism practitioners, experts and policy makers from all

branches of government; including the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Prosecutor general, National Intelligence Services, the Police, Parliament, National Counter Terrorism Coordinating agencies and Professionals in the Academia who play a role in counter terrorism law and policy making and implementation in Ethiopia.

Speakers were drawn from various organizations including UNODC, African Centre for Study and Research in Terrorism (ACSRT), SAHAN Research (an independent Security Policy and Practice think tank in East Africa), ISSP and the Ethiopian government.

The topics discussed included:

- Terrorism Threat in the IGAD Region;
- IGAD Conventions on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition;
- Regional Instruments-African Union Counter Terrorism Legal Framework and the AU Model Law;

International Legal Instruments/Regimes as they relate to Counter-Terrorism; and

- Domestic counter terrorism laws in Ethiopia.

All the speakers focused on the role of each body in

strengthening the capacity of AU Member States to fight terrorism guided by international, regional and national laws.

The ACSRT representative presented on the AU legal framework in the fight against terrorism. Framework elements discussed include:

The Organization of the African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa

The Protocol to the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of terrorism in Africa

The 2002 AU Plan of Action

The creation of African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT)

Prohibition of payment of ransom to terrorist groups

The African Comprehensive model law on the prevention and combating of terrorism.

Some other additional resolutions, declarations and events were cited in the course of the presentation. These include the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombings of 1998, the UNSC Resolution 1373/2001, the 9/11 bombings as well as the Dakar Declaration of 2001. He also rallied the representatives of Member States to present our call to their re-

spective governments to sign and ratify the Protocol to the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of terrorism in Africa so that it can become operational.

The experts acknowledged the efforts by Ethiopia in the fight against national, regional and international terrorism and requested the national authorities to revisit their laws to align them with any instruments at regional, continental and international levels. In the area of international cooperation it was stressed that Ethiopia harmonises its national counter terrorism laws with existing CT international instruments to boost the possibility of success of extra territorial investigations and extraditions and effectively contribute to the implementation of a regional strategy.

The ACSRT delegate took the opportunity to brief the delegates of the existence of a fusion centre in the Sahel region, whose model the Ethiopian and IGAD authorities need to replicate to strengthen information sharing at national and regional levels.

The national authorities were also called on to make use of the Model law by incorporating relevant provision thereof into the national criminal legislation.