

AFRICAN UNION

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**SECOND HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL
MEETING ON THE PREVENTION AND
COMBATING OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA**

**13 - 14 OCTOBER 2004
ALGIERS, ALGERIA**

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**DECLARATION OF THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL
INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE PREVENTION
AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA**

**Declaration of the Second High-Level InterGovernmental Meeting on
the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa**

We, the representatives of the Member States of the African Union, meeting in Algiers, from the 13th to the 14th of October 2004, on the occasion of the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, in the presence of the Africa's partners, to review the progress made and exchange views on the best way forward in the implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and its Protocol thereto, as well as the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa. Our meeting coincided with the historic launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, which was graced by the presence of H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, whose comprehensive opening statement inspired our meeting, and which we have adopted as one of the documents of the Meeting.

We reiterate our deep concern over the fact that terrorism has not significantly receded in spite of the ongoing global counter-terrorism campaign. Recent global terrorist attacks around the world including in Africa call for tougher measures and a more consolidated international cooperation. In this regard, we stress the imperative for Member States to act with resolve and strengthen cooperation among them in all aspects of the prevention and combating of terrorism, and particularly to scrupulously implement continental and international instruments;

We underscore the need to differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate struggles of peoples for liberation, self-determination, freedom and independence, as recognized under international law.

We recall all the relevant decisions adopted by the policy Organs of the African Union, stressing the importance to effectively implement the 1999 OAU Convention and its Protocol thereto, and the Plan of Action. At its Fifth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004, the Executive Council, in its decision, EX.CL/Dec.126 (V), mandated the Second High Level Intergovernmental Meeting to evaluate the progress made and to decide on the best possible follow-up. The council also decided that the Meeting should coincide with the launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism;

We call upon the Commission of the African Union to convene regularly the High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. In this context, we further invite the Commission to convene the Third High Level Intergovernmental Meeting.

In line with the mandate given to the Second High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting and in order to mark the historic launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), we:

I. **Launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism**

Welcome the establishment and launching of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, in Algiers, Algeria, as a significant achievement in our collective efforts to outlaw and eradicate the scourge of terrorism;

Express our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, for having kindly accepted to preside over the inaugural ceremony of the Centre during which he handed over the keys of the Centre to the AU Commission;

Express also our thanks and appreciation to the Government of Algeria for the generous support and facilities, in particular, the infrastructures provided to host the Centre, and Commend the Commission of the African Union for the various efforts made in liaison with the Government of Algeria to establish and operationalize the Centre;

Recall all the relevant decisions adopted by the policy Organs of the African Union, particularly, Assembly/AU/Dec.15 (II), EX.CL/Dec.13 (II), EX/CL/Dec.82 (IV), and EX.CL/Dec.126 (V), relating to the establishment and operationalization of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT);

Reiterate that the Centre is a structure of the Commission of the African Union and the Peace and Security Council(PSC), which shall serve to centralize information, studies and analyses on terrorism and terrorist groups and develop training programs by organizing, with the assistance of international partners, training schedules, meetings, and symposia;

Urge all Member States of the Union to extend full cooperation and support to the Centre as well as take active part in its activities, and Further Urge those that have not yet done so to establish, as soon as possible, national Focal Points to liaise with the Centre;

Invite the Chairperson of the AU Commission to submit proposals, in consultation with Member States, on the structure and modalities for its effective functioning, for the consideration by the relevant Policy Organs of the Union. In the interim period, we **Further invite** the Chairperson of the Commission to work out a provisional arrangement in consultation with the host country, to ensure the operationalisation of the Centre as soon as possible;

Request the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare a provisional budget of the Centre for 2005, for consideration by the forthcoming Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council, scheduled for November 2004;

Appeal to Africa's Partners including international organizations, institutions and similar Centres around the world to provide support to the Centre and establish networks for information sharing, training, research and joint activities.

Recommend to the AU Commission, pending the appointment or recruitment of the Director of the Centre in accordance with the procedures of the Commission, to request the government of Algeria to provide an Interim Director-General so that the Centre can become immediately functional.

II. Status of Implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention and the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa

a) Ratification of Continental and International Instruments

Underscore the importance for all Member States to sign, ratify or accede, as the case may be, to the 1999 OAU Convention and to all regional and international instruments relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism and Urge Member States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede, as the case may be, to these instruments.

Take note of the reports presented by the Commission of the African Union, Member States and Regional Economic Communities on the measures taken to implement the 1999 OAU Convention and the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa. We note that some African States have already put in place national legislations or some form of laws for dealing with issues relating to terrorism, others have made important strides in establishing the institutional frameworks for the prevention and combating of terrorism;

Commend the initiatives taken at the national, regional and continental levels in the implementation of the Convention and Plan of Action, and commend, in particular, those African countries that have ratified and those that are in the process of ratifying all continental instruments and the twelve (12) international Conventions and Protocols on the prevention and combating of terrorism;

b) The Protocol to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism

Welcome the adoption of the Protocol to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism by the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union;

Emphasize the value added and importance of the Protocol for the effective implementation of the 1999 OAU Convention;

Appeal to all the States Parties to the 1999 OAU Convention to sign and ratify the Protocol as soon as possible;

Urge the Commission of the African Union to take all the necessary measures to ensure the speedy entry into force of the Protocol, including undertaking consultations with Regional Economic Communities to define roles and strategies in the implementation of the Protocol.

c) The Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa

Take note of the measures taken by the AU Commission to ensure implementation of the Plan of Action;

Emphasize the fact that the Plan of Action provides the most viable and comprehensive strategies for the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa, particularly in the areas of police and border control, legislative and judicial measures, suppression of the financing of terrorism, exchange of information, and coordination at the regional, continental and international levels. However, we note that Member States have not fully exploited its provisions and recommendations;

Urge the Commission of the African Union to draw up a roadmap indicating priorities and timeframes in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

Urge Member States to fully implement the provisions and recommendations contained in the Plan of Action;

Reiterate the importance of the establishment, by the commission, under the aegis of the Peace and Security Council, and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Algiers Plan of Action, a single African list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts;

Take note of the Consultative meeting held concurrently with the Second High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism between Security Services of some Member States, and welcome the recommendations adopted by the Meeting.

Underscore the importance of such meetings for Inter-African cooperation and international partnership and **Encourage** other sectors particularly the Judiciary, Finance and Customs to organize similar meetings aimed at enhancing coordination in their activities;

d) Regional Cooperation

Underscore the importance of Regional cooperation in the prevention and combating of terrorism and particularly in the implementation of continental and international instruments, and stressing, in this regard, intra and inter-regional cooperation, in facilitating exchange of information, mutual legal assistance, concluding extradition agreements and complementing the actions of Member States;

Encourage Regional Economic Communities and African Regional Bureaus of Interpols and any other relevant institutions and organizations to establish Regional Focal Points on terrorism, to facilitate coordination at the continental and international levels;

Take note of the initiatives taken by some countries to establish national and regional focal points on the prevention and combating of terrorism;

Urge Regional Economic Communities to coordinate their activities with the Commission of the African Union in all aspects of the prevention and combating of terrorism, particularly within the framework of the Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;

Encourage Member States, within a regional framework, to enter to bilateral, and/or multilateral arrangements aimed at strengthening trans-border cooperation, particularly in the areas of intelligence and border surveillance;

Invite the International Community to support the efforts at the national and regional levels to address hot bed of tension and to combat other factors that lead to or provide haven for terrorists.

e) **International Cooperation and Partnerships**

Take note of the Statements made by international partners and institutions and **Acknowledge** the centrality of international cooperation and the need to build partnerships in the fight against terrorism, and **Appreciate** their high-level participation at the meeting and their interest in working with African countries in the prevention and combating of terrorism and other transborder crimes.

Call upon Member States to continue to strengthen cooperation with the international community and contribute to the efforts of the international community to prevent and combat terrorism in all its aspects;

Commend Africa's partners and institutions including the CTC, UNODC, IMF, World Bank, Commonwealth, la Francophonie, IMO, WCO, INTERPOL and many others for the useful technical assistance programmes they have, so far, made and continue to make available to Member States;

Underscore the crucial need to strengthen technical assistance particularly in the field of training and equipment (hardware and software) in all areas in the prevention and combating of terrorism;

Further underscore the importance of convening an international conference to prepare a code of conduct to combat terrorism at the international level, in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.14 (II) adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003.

III. Motion of Appreciation to the Host Country

Express our profound gratitude to the people and Government of Algeria for the warm welcome and generous hospitality they accorded to us during our stay in Algiers.

Algiers, 14 October 2004