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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1111TH MEETING (MINISTERIAL LEVEL)

7 OCTOBER 2022
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/MIN/COMM.1111 (2022)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1111th meeting held at Ministerial level on 7 October 2022 on the theme: Development and Deradicalization as Levers to Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism:

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling Decision [Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.(XVI)] adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 28 May 2022, in Malabo Equatorial Guinea; ***also recalling*** all its decisions and pronouncements on the scourge of terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, particularly Communique [PSC/MIN/COMM.1107 (2022)] adopted by the PSC at its 1107th meeting held at Ministerial Level on 23 September 2022, in New York, United States of America; Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1048 (2021)] adopted at its 1048thmeeting held on 15 November 2021; and Communique [PSC/MIN/COMM.1040 (2021)] adopted at its 1040th meeting held at the Ministerial level on 22 October 2021; as well as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy [(A/RES/60/288)];

Determined to ensure the effectiveness of all relevant OAU/AU instruments in the fight against the scourge of terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, including the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism; the 2002 AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa; and the 2014 African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development (African Charter on Decentralization), as well as all relevant international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism;

Deeply concerned by the growing threat to peace, security, and stability in Africa posed by the spread of terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, which is undermining AU efforts to silence the guns in Africa by 2030, which is a key prerequisite for the realization of the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 and United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Taking note of the opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco as Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) for October 2022; the statements by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security and by H.E. Mr. Parfait Onanga-Ananga Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the African Union and Head of the UN Office to the AU; as well as the presentation by Dr. Ahmed Abaddi, Secretary-General of the Rabita Mohammadia of Ulema; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council,

1. ***Strongly condemns*** all terrorist acts regardless of the pretext under which they are committed, and the misuse of information and communication technologies including the internet and social media networks by terrorist groups;

2. ***Underscores*** the primary responsibility of Member States in addressing poverty and underdevelopment, as well as in the fight against terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism and in this regard, ***encourages*** Member States to redouble efforts to address all governance deficits that may easily be manipulated by terrorist and extremist groups, further strengthen the capacity of State institutions to ensure that they deliver on their respective mandates, adopt inclusive policies and to be responsive to the legitimate grievances, particularly those of the marginalized and underprivileged sections of society;

3. ***Underlines*** the need for expedited implementation of all decisions adopted by Council and the Assembly of the Union, particularly Decision [Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.(XVI)] adopted by the 16th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly held on 28 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;

4. ***Also underlines*** the need for reviewing all AU counter-terrorism frameworks and instruments and in this context, ***requests*** the AU Commission to include countering radicalization and extremist ideologies in the envisaged review of the African Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism;

5. ***Requests*** the Commission, through the Africa Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism ACSRT to continue providing technical capacity building support to Member States and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Service of Africa (CISSA) to also continue providing credible early warning, with a view to boosting the preventative capacities of Member States and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs);

6. ***Reiterates the appeal*** to all Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify all African and international counterterrorism instruments, including the African Charter on Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development, which is a key prerequisite for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the regional development framework of the African Union Agenda 2020;

7. ***Implores*** all Member States to enhance cooperation and collaboration in fighting the scourges of terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism and to also deepen and intensify their collective security efforts, among others by sharing information and intelligence, joint operations, signing extradition agreements, as well as establishing platforms of forums for sharing their experiences, best practices and lessons in preventing and combating terrorism, radicalization and extremism;

8. ***Stresses the necessity*** of comprehensive and multidimensional whole-of-government and whole-of-society, human rights sensitive approaches that effectively address all structural and fundamental root causes, drivers and possible factors that facilitate radicalization and violent extremism;

9. ***Reaffirms*** the important role of women and youth, including victims of terrorism and violent extremism in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and ***stresses the importance*** of their effective participation and full involvement in the designing

and implementation of National and Regional Action Plans for the Prevention of Violent Extremism;

10. ***Further encourages*** Member States, to ensure the effective presence of the State and provision of basic public/ social services in their entire territories and to avoid the creation of ungoverned spaces;

11. ***Calls on*** Member States to redouble efforts aimed at promoting inclusivity, a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue, as well as an understanding of mutual respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity, including through national education curricula;

12. ***Underlines the importance*** of national reconciliation and cohesion including through dialogue and negotiations to facilitate voluntary surrender and rehabilitation of terrorists and extremists, and to this end, ***requests*** the AU Commission to develop a compendium of African national reconciliation best practices to be submitted for consideration by Council, as soon as possible;

13. ***Stress the centrality*** of a national criminal justice system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, due process and fair trial guarantees as one of the best means of effectively promoting accountability and preventing terrorism;

14. ***Underscores*** the critical role of the media, religious institutions, educational and cultural institutions in countering terrorist narratives, deradicalization, and in promoting inter-faith dialogue, tolerance and peaceful coexistence in the Continent;

15. ***Expresses deep appreciation*** to the UN Office for Counter-Terrorism for the continued technical capacity building support being provided to Member States and RECs/RMs and ***looks forwards*** to the successful convening and outcomes of the upcoming High-Level International Conference on Counter-Terrorism to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, under the leadership of H.E. President Muhammadu Buhari; and

16. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.