



Security Council

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Letter dated 10 January 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to inform you that Algeria, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of January 2025, will hold a high-level open debate on counter-terrorism in Africa, in connection with the item entitled “maintenance of international peace and security”. The open debate will take place on 21 January 2025 at 10 a.m.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, Algeria has prepared a concept note. This concept note is contained in the annex to the present letter.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amar **Bendjama**
Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 10 January 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “African-led and development-focused counter-terrorism: strengthening African leadership and implementation of counter-terrorism initiatives”, to be held on 21 January 2025

Background

Terrorism remains a significant threat to international peace and security. Through its various resolutions, presidential statements and meetings on the issue, the Security Council has emphasized the need for African-led, development-focused solutions. While the frequency of terrorist attacks has decreased, fatalities from these attacks have increased in Africa. According to the African Union Counter Terrorism Centre, African countries were heavily affected, with over 3,200 terrorist attacks and 8,400 civilian casualties, between January and September 2024. The growing link between terrorist groups and transnational criminal networks, which fund their activities through illicit means such as drug trafficking, illegal mining, kidnapping for ransom, piracy and cryptocurrency, exacerbates the situation. The return of ideologically-driven fighters with combat experience from other conflict zones further complicates the security landscape.

This threat undermines the African Union’s “Silencing the Guns” initiative and obstructs progress on Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To effectively combat terrorism, a comprehensive approach is required, addressing not only security but also socioeconomic factors such as poverty, inequality and exclusion. Engaging civil society, youth and women is crucial for preventing violent extremism and fostering social cohesion.

African Union framework and initiatives

The African Union has developed a robust counter-terrorism framework, grounded in the 1999 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the 2002 plan of action. Recent initiatives include a new strategic action plan, the operationalization of the African Union Special Fund on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa, and plans for an African Union Ministerial Committee on Counter-Terrorism. The African Union has also strengthened intelligence-sharing through the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa, created a counter-terrorism unit within the African Standby Force, and enhanced cooperation through AFRIPOL. Despite funding challenges, Africa remains committed to these efforts.

The African Union Counter Terrorism Centre, marking its twentieth anniversary in 2024, continues to support member States in strengthening their counter-terrorism capabilities. The annual Oran Process seminar serves as a platform for dialogue on security issues, with the eleventh edition, held in December 2024, focusing on integrated capabilities to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

Objectives

The primary goal is to support African-led counter-terrorism efforts by integrating socioeconomic development and security measures. Specific objectives include:

- Enhancing State capacities while respecting national sovereignty

- Improving collaboration between African institutions and United Nations mechanisms
- Identifying sustainable funding mechanisms for counter-terrorism in Africa
- Disrupting financial networks that support terrorism and violent extremism

Guiding questions

1. How can the Security Council support African Union counter-terrorism initiatives while ensuring African leadership and solutions?
2. How can existing mechanisms ensure sustainable and predictable funding for African peace and security, particularly in counter-terrorism?
3. How can socioeconomic development strengthen counter-terrorism efforts and support Agenda 2063 of the African Union?
4. How can coordination between United Nations and African mechanisms, especially the Nouakchott Process and the Accra Initiative, be improved?
5. How can efforts to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime, particularly financing, be strengthened?

Briefers

The Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad and African Affairs of Algeria, Ahmed Attaf, will deliver opening remarks and chair the meeting.

Briefers include:

- The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union, Bankole Adeoye
- Senior Adviser to the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, and former Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and former Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union and Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of OAU, Said Djinnit