

**ASG Zouev's remarks at the Tenth Meeting of  
the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee**  
Outcome-oriented discussion amongst UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact  
entities

[This segment will focus on concrete recommendations on coordinating counter-  
terrorism efforts in Africa]

**24 January 2024, 10:50 to 11:50 a.m., UNHQ, CR TBC**

Excellencies,  
Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Department of Peace Operations, I would like to thank the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee for convening this important meeting and for inviting us to participate.

Excellencies,

Terrorism remains a prominent challenge that threatens international peace and security. The drivers of terrorism have become more diversified, and the root causes of terrorism have yet to be effectively addressed. At the same time, military responses have shown their limitations and are now deemed by most as insufficient.

The African continent continues to withstand the worst of this protracted violence, with the Sahel region having become an epicenter of terrorism, accounting for more terrorism deaths in 2022 than both South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa combined.

It is therefore essential to strengthen international counter-terrorism efforts in the face of this complex and debilitating phenomenon by adopting a preventive, holistic and inclusive approach to counter terrorism in Africa.

African Member States are investing tremendous resources and efforts to address the root causes of the security challenges facing the continent but remain constrained by limited resources and capacity. In that context, DPO believes that strengthening the rule of law and the capacity of national security and justice institutions to respond more effectively to terrorist threats is critical and a smart investment, based on evolving needs and focusing on national will and ownership.

Equally important are measures and approaches to address the main conflict drivers and related grievances in a sustainable way while preventing human rights violations and civilian harm.

The exercise of force alone can never be the sole response to deeply entrenched security problems, and there is ample evidence that securitized approaches can actually be counterproductive.

In that context, one of the key areas of focus could be so-called judicialized responses. Those efforts seek to tackle the threat posed by terrorism through the promotion or reestablishment of the rule of law, the reform of police and justice sector institutions to tackle impunity, and the restoration of the trust in State institutions and of the state-society relationship around security and justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need to embed peace enforcement and counter-terrorism efforts in a wider political strategy, to address the real drivers of conflict and to reduce recruitment by extremist groups. Our responses need to prioritize accountability and mitigate civilian harm, in line with international humanitarian and human rights law.

A key message of the New Agenda for Peace is that – when undertaking peace enforcement, including counter-terrorism operations – comprehensive approaches must be prioritized over securitized approaches. We need to ensure that military operations are underpinned by political and development strategies to tackle the structural drivers of conflict.

It might be the time to undertake a mapping of ongoing CT/PCVE initiatives, with a view to reprioritizing UN engagement and support – building on lessons from West and Central Africa, and in preparation for the African Counter-Terrorism Summit in Abuja.

Excellencies,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate DPO's commitment to strengthening multilateral partnerships and cooperation, including through continuous strategic engagement with African Member States.

Thank you.