

Security Council Open Debate on Threats to International Peace and Security Terrorism and Cross-Border Crime December 2014, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Mahamat Permanent Mission of Chad to the United Nations.

I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Chad. I would like to thank all colleagues who travelled here to take part in this meeting. I would also like to thank Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Mr. Tête António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, for their briefings.

I welcome the fact that Chad, as a member of the Security Council for the first time, took the initiative on the first resolution on the dangerous and growing linkage between terrorism and cross-border crime. It highlights the importance of enhanced cooperation among States and the strengthening of capacity-building and coordination of the United Nations in the efforts to combat these two phenomena, which are mutually strengthening in many cases. We welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 2195 (2014).

Terrorism and cross-border crime are two phenomena that have a very negative impact on international peace and security, particularly in the Middle East, in Central Asia and in Africa. The African continent, unfortunately, is facing more and more these two phenomena. In recent years, the terrorist and criminal acts that have been perpetrated by groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, Ansar Al-Sharia, the Lord's Resistance Army and Al-Shabaab, to just mention a few, have stepped up their intensity in the Sahel, in the Maghreb and in West, Central and East Africa. Those groups have shown themselves to be the most dangerous, stepping up attacks against civilians, including women and children, and United Nations personnel, particularly peacekeepers, and their installations and infrastructure. They finance their activities through the payment of ransoms and all sorts of trafficking.

The factors that contribute to that state of affairs are, among others, the weakness of States with regard to extending their authority over their entire territory: weak cooperation and coordination between States in legal and security matters; a high level of youth unemployment; and broad poverty. Groups of terrorists and criminals use those weaknesses to recruit and to grow. Faced with the scale of the threat, the actions taken by States and organizations against terrorists and criminals must be reinforced. With regard to Africa, we must seek to strengthen our cooperation and coordination through the mechanisms set up by the African Union, the regional economic communities and individual States. From that point of view, the summit of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held in Nairobi on 2 September, under the chairmanship of Chad, called upon the African Union Commission to consider, among other measures, establishing a special fund to combat terrorism, establishing special combat units at the subregional and regional levels, strengthening the legal framework for combating terrorism through cooperation among police forces, and establishing an African arrest warrant against those who carry out and abet terrorist acts, as well as a mechanism to help to dry up the sources of funding for terrorism. In that regard, we should point out that one of the principal sources for the financing of terrorism in Africa is the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. Despite the decision of the African Union against the payment of ransoms and despite Security Council resolution 2133

(2014), we note with regret that terrorists continue to benefit, directly or indirectly, from the payment of ransoms or from political concessions by States whose citizens are taken hostage. Furthermore, drug trafficking, often linked with other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in weapons and in human beings, the illicit trafficking of natural resources, such as wildlife and coal, corruption and money laundering are all a source of growing destabilization and a brake on the development of African States.

We must redouble efforts to combat corruption, particularly within services for security, the suppression of fraud, and border control. We have no other choice but to strengthen and ensure respect for our legislative and regulatory measures against such crimes. We remember the Boeing 727 nicknamed “Air Cocaine,” which landed in northern Mali in December 2009, carrying about six tons of the drug. The value of the cocaine transited through Africa, by sea or by air, and using the Sahel route to the Mediterranean coast, is estimated in the billions of dollars.

At the national level, Chad is particularly concerned by the crises and areas of tension surrounding it. The Libyan crisis has had, and continues to have, serious consequences for the stability of a great part of the Sahel. We note with concern that the situation prevailing there has allowed terrorist organizations to establish safe havens. The growing threat represented by the barbarians of Boko Haram in Central and West Africa, instability in the Central African Republic and in Darfur, and Al-Shabab’s asymmetric war in the Horn of Africa are all major challenges that require pooled efforts by the countries concerned and greater mobilization by the international community.

In that regard, we pay tribute to the commitment of the group of countries neighbouring Libya, not only in supporting peace and reconciliation within those countries, but also for ensuring greater monitoring of the common borders in order to contain the terrorist threat. In that light, Chad is making efforts to ensure security within its borders, despite its huge territory and its limited resources. Together with the Sudan, we have established a joint force that operates joint patrols along our common border to deter criminals and bandits of all natures. Under the Lake Chad Basin Commission we have revitalized the joint multinational force to confront the terrorist threat in the subregion.

Chad is also giving particular attention to regional security. The Chadian army has been active in Mali, where, at great cost, it has helped hunt down terrorist groups and narco-traffickers. Chad is very involved, with other States, in the Nouakchott Process, launched by the African Union in March 2013, with a view to strengthening cooperation in security matters and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel.

It lies primarily with us to enhance our respective national capacities with a view to fully ensuring our own security. We must work, with the assistance of partners, on effective operationalization to confront terrorism, cross-border crime and radicalization and violent extremism. In that regard, we would like to pay tribute to France’s engagement at our side, through Operation Barkhane, and to thank the United States and the European Union for their support.

Furthermore, we call upon the United Nations entities, particularly the Counter-Terrorism

Committee and its Executive Directorate, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, to redouble their efforts. We urge those States that have the resources to do so to enhance their capacities, particularly in terms of matériel and technical and logistical assistance. That support is particularly necessary for the African States in the Sahel and the Sahara, which have to control immense areas. Most often, criminals and terrorists are heavily armed and are often in complicity with terrorist groups.

Beyond enhancing interregional cooperation and coordination to counter the phenomena of terrorism and cross-border crime, including trafficking in weapons and drugs, we must emphasize the fight against poverty. Young people are easy prey for terrorist groups, which have considerable resources coming from drug trafficking and other illicit trades. To put a stop to practices that seriously threaten the security of the continent, it is important for the international community to support development programmes and projects launched within the framework of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

As we await the Secretary-General's report requested in resolution 2195 (2014), we hope that the ratification and implementation of conventions, protocols and relative instruments will allow us to respond to the challenges represented by the linkage between terrorism and cross-border crime.