



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council Open Debate
“African-led and Development-focused Counter-terrorism: Strengthening African Leadership and Implementation of Counter-terrorism Initiative”

21 January 2025

Greece’s Statement delivered
by HE Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris,
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Mr. President, Honourable Minister Attaf,

Let me start by thanking you for your leadership and allow me to express our appreciation to Algeria for convening this open debate, on a matter of utmost importance to all of us. We also extend our gratitude to the distinguished briefers for the very insightful remarks.

Mr. President,

Terrorism and violent extremism, are spreading rapidly across the African continent, especially in the Sahel and West Africa, constituting a substantial threat to international peace and security, including maritime security, which is vital to global trade.

Terrorist and violent extremist groups, with links to transnational organized crime, are exploiting internal conflicts, weak governance, climate change and socio-economic instability leading to further degradation of fundamental values and freedoms. Spill-over effects pose a risk of deterioration and despair, while inflammatory propaganda fuels the spread and intensification of terrorist acts.

These groups are committing systematic human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, exacerbate further violence and extremism.

These alarming dynamics dictate the need to develop a holistic approach through stronger international and regional alignment.

Counter-terrorist efforts require an enhanced cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and other sub-regional organizations. In this context, reinforcement of coordination initiatives between the UN and the African Union is of pivotal importance.

Greece extends her unequivocal support to our African partners in their fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. President, allow me to highlight three key points:

First, African-led counter-terrorism initiatives play a core role in mitigating the spread of terrorist propaganda. We express our strong support to regional efforts, such as the Abuja Declaration, the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" Initiative, the Accra Initiative, ECOWAS and SADC. Enhanced multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation and robust border security among states, especially across the Sahel and West Africa are essential to tackle the expansion of terrorism and violent extremism.

Second, joint efforts by the AU and the UN in various peacekeeping missions set an example of how AU-UN cooperation extends beyond traditional peacekeeping.

We welcome a focused and comprehensive approach on counter-terrorism strategies, stabilization and long-term capacity-building efforts across Africa, being incorporated in peacekeeping missions. AUSSOM, an AU-led mission in Somalia, aims to support the Somali government in its fight against terrorism, while the UN-led mission MINUSCA in Central African Republic, addresses, among other tasks, the threats posed by armed groups linked to terrorism.

At the same time, we remain concerned on the security and peace-building vacuum currently resulting from the drawdown of missions like MINUSMA (Mali), UNITAMS (Sudan) & MONUSCO (DRC).

Greece reiterates her deep appreciation to all troop contributing countries to the peacekeeping forces and stresses the importance of missions having the necessary capabilities to fulfill their mandate and promote the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers.

Third, international law provides the framework for the application of measures, strategies and policies to counter the financing of terrorism.

Strengthening cross-border coordination, along with capacity-building programmes, are an important step in building networks to monitor and block terrorist financing, as well as to identify, freeze, and recover assets linked to sanctioned individuals and entities operating in Africa.

Mr. President,

In concluding, let me reassure you that Greece remains fully committed, in cooperation with our African partners, in advancing cooperative regional and international initiatives for combating terrorism and violent extremism, one of the most disruptive and imminent threats for our societies.

I thank you.