



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya

To the United Nations

**TENTH UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM
COORDINATION COMPACT COMMITTEE MEETING**

*STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF COUNTER-TERRORISM INITIATIVES IN
AFRICA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

24 and 25 January 2024, 10am - 12pm

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN KIMANI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

1. Thank you, USG Vladimir Voronkov for organising this meeting. I thank the Secretary-General for his work and leadership.
2. The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact exemplifies effective multilateralism, crucial in addressing the persistent and evolving threat of terrorism and violent extremism.
3. Africa's unique challenges in counter-terrorism stem from a complex mix of economic, historical, and sociopolitical factors.

4. The continent, with the world's youngest population, faces a critical lack of economic opportunities, growing inequality, livelihood-destroying extreme climate events, contributing to vulnerabilities exploited by terrorist groups.
5. Additionally, the historical backdrop of colonial and post-colonial legacies has left many African states grappling with challenges in governance, and the maintenance of control of all national territory.
6. Rapid urbanisation and the globalization of culture are eroding traditional forms of local and communal authority in Africa. States often lack competence in the inclusive management of diverse, sometimes clashing, identities and the resulting shortfalls in the state's political legitimacy.
7. The resulting social transformation, coupled with economic crises, creates vacuums that global terrorism actors, including Al Qaeda and ISIS affiliates, are eager to exploit. Moreover, the under-investment in counter-terrorism efforts in Africa and the double standards in dealing with terrorism compared to more developed regions worsen these challenges.
8. In addressing these issues, we must recognise that Africa-centred approaches to counter-terrorism, while necessary, risk creating a form of ghettoisation if not integrated into global strategies. Thus, our efforts must be inclusive, respecting the unique context of African states while aligning with global counter-terrorism strategies. The Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) underscores this need, advocating for African-led peace operations as a key component of efforts to counter campaigns by terrorist and violent extremist forces.
9. This approach requires acknowledging the interconnected nature of today's security challenges, where terrorism not only poses an immediate threat to security but also jeopardises Africa's development, economic stability, and social cohesion. The trajectory

of terrorism in Africa demands a robust and comprehensive response, as embodied by the Compact.

10. We appreciate the investments in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts, including the establishment of UNOCT regional offices in Nairobi and Rabat. We recall their genesis in the Africa Counter Terrorism Conference convened by UNOCT in July 2019 and chaired by the Secretary General. These programmes are vital in delivering coordinated capacity and resources, reflecting our common aspiration for a terrorism-free future. Kenya's financial contribution to UNOCT and pledge for continued support exemplifies our commitment to integrated approaches.
11. The 2019 Africa High-Level Conference on Counter Terrorism revitalised our collective efforts, enhancing regional counter-terrorism coordination. I emphasise the importance of engaging in coordinated national and local interventions, pooling resources and capacities, and fully integrating a framework for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning in implementing the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.
12. I want to end with a note of optimism. Africa has the world's youngest population experiencing the most rapid social and cultural evolution as urbanisation and the technology-aided dissemination of information accelerates.
13. Governments should proactively and positively engage this social and cultural dynamism and refuse to allow terrorist recruiters and extremists room to exploit it for their own ends.
14. We should be at the forefront of nurturing cultural and artistic expression, enabling the youth to constructively critique society and view themselves as agents of concrete positive change. In this way, governments can enable spaces that create alternative narratives to anti-democratic, inhumane and even fascist ideologies and demonstrate that the youth have a significant role in shaping their society's future.
15. Thank you for your efforts and attention.