

**GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION COMPACT WORKING  
GROUP ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM  
STRATEGIES  
(NARS)**

**Counter-Terrorism Compact's coordination with regional organizations, civil society,  
and the private sector in preventing and countering terrorism in Africa**

*Presentation*

*By*

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

From the outset, I wish to thank all Working Group members for their active participation at our meetings. I wish to also thank NARS vice-chair, UNOCT, as well as the Global Compact secretariat for their great cooperation.

Throughout 2023 we have enhanced our cooperation with regional organizations and external partners. During our meetings and exchanges we recalled the prerequisites reiterated by the General Assembly resolutions, the relevant Security Council resolutions and CTED's assessment tools, namely that for a counter-terrorism strategy to be deemed "comprehensive" and "integrated" it should:

1. Employ a whole-of-government approach.
2. Employ a whole-of-society approach.
3. Mainstream human rights and gender across its components, and ensure that its counter-terrorism measures comply with Member State's obligations under international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law; and
4. Consult in a meaningful way all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in the development, implementation and evaluation of the strategy.

We have addressed these main requirements in national and regional counter-terrorism strategies adopted across different regions. These include Africa, Middle East, Europe, Southeast Europe, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. We have also engaged the Council of Europe to keep abreast of its lessons learned from its newly adopted regional counter-terrorism strategy. The engagement provided many lessons learned for other regions that may consider developing - or updating - their respective regional counter-terrorism strategy. We also intend to replicate the same engagement with our partners in other subregions, including in Africa.

I am pleased to update you that I held conference call with the Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), Mr. Idriss Mounir Lallali, following his remarks to the Global Compact yesterday in which he expressed ACSRT interest to work with the United Nations on national counter-terrorism strategies. We discussed potential areas of cooperation and possible joint activities throughout the next period. I have also invited him to brief the NARS Working Group in the first quarter of this year to share views about these activities and hear from other NARS members. We look forward to enhancing our existing cooperation with ACSRT and other partners in Africa.

Last year the NARS Working Group hosted a briefing on a round table that was held with civil society representatives to get their perspectives on their engagement with Member States on developing comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies in Southeast Europe. There were many lessons learned from this exercise that we also intend to replicate with our partners in other subregions in Africa, including with regards to the multiple ways in which civil society organizations can collaborate with governments.

In 2023, NARS Working Group and Gender Working Group continued exchanging briefings on efforts of advocating for gender mainstreaming in the Compact's activities through policy and the provision of technical support. As reflected in our adopted workplan for 2024 - 2026 we intend to continue this good practice, and we will also explore with Global Compact Chairs to have some of these discussions focus on practices and lessons learned in different regions.

Similarly, we will aim at enhancing direct engagement between NARS Working Group and United Nations Country Teams that may be planning or are interested in engaging with their host countries in developing comprehensive and

integrated national counter-terrorism strategies. Engagement in the field will also be critical when it concerns the effective implementation of existing counter-terrorism strategies.

Last year, NARS hosted a briefing by Strong Cities Network. The briefing shared good practices and lessons learned especially with regards to how discussions on the headquarters' levels could be more informed by government officials working on the municipal levels. The briefing highlighted how such an approach helps ensure international standards resonate more at a local level, and that local stakeholders will be involved more in the implementation.

Finally, 2023 marked the tenth anniversary of the 2013 Bogota Principles for national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. Many additional resolutions were adopted since then. Similarly, new issues and trends have emerged. We, therefore, need to explore all possible means to hold a Review Conference for the Bogota Principles in 2024. We will reach out to Member States who may be interested in hosting the Review Conference, and if need be, we may consider holding it in New York.

We look forward to our continued cooperation with all our partners within the United Nations and beyond, as well as within the framework of the Global Compact, to build upon successes achieved, and make more impact in the field.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.