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1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the heads of intelligence  
and security services of the member states  
of igad and eac

DJIBOUTI, REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 2015

## CONCLUSIONS

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## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services (HISS) of the countries of the East Africa Region that are members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) took place in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, from 28 February to 1 March 2015. The meeting was organized by the Commission of the African Union (AU), in collaboration with IGAD and the EAC.
2. The following countries participated in the meeting: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In addition, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the AU Mission for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL), the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) and the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL) also took part in the meeting.
3. The opening ceremony was marked by the statements made by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, the Executive Secretary of IGAD, the representative of the Secretary-General of the EAC, and the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Djibouti.
4. The Djibouti meeting was held as part of the implementation of the communiqué of the 455<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 2 September 2014, at the level of Heads of State and Government. The meeting encouraged the establishment, where required, of flexible and action-oriented processes for intelligence sharing and security cooperation at regional level, building on the successes of, and lessons learned from, the UFL, the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in the Sahelo-Saharan region and the RCI-LRA.
5. Participants reviewed the security situation in East Africa, including the threats facing the region and the vulnerabilities that render it attractive to terrorism and transnational organized crime. They also agreed on concrete actions to be taken to address the challenges at hand, building on existing experiences.
6. Participants welcomed the significant progress made by AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) in their efforts to achieve the objective of a more peaceful and stable Somalia, as well as by the RCI-LRA. They recognized that despite demonstrable improvement towards stability in the region, terrorism, inter/intra-state conflicts and transnational organized crime remain a major security concern.
7. Participants noted that the region continues to be a target of both domestic and international terrorism. These include Al-Shabaab, the LRA, the Democratic Forces for the

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Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), with in some cases, links outside the region with such groups as Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It was recognized that although the level of the threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism varies from country to country, it is even greater for countries contributing troops and police personnel to AMISOM, and continues to grow as a result of multiple factors, such as proximity to terrorism 'hot-spots', prolonged conflict situations in some parts of the region and spillover effect from the adjacent regions, as well as the attempts by extremist groups to establish an Islamic Caliphate in the region.

8. Participants identified a number of vulnerabilities that render the region attractive to terrorists and which could be exploited by them, including: porous and unmanned borders that contribute to various forms of trafficking, particularly drug and human trafficking; use of forged documents; lack of an up-to-date regional database on terrorists; proliferations of Small Arms And Light Weapons (SALW); existence of militias, armed rebel groups, extremist religious groups and criminal syndicates; and ethnic and natural resource-based conflicts.

9. Participants, cognizant of the need for continuous enhancement of security cooperation among the countries of the region, stressed the following:

- (i) the need to build a strong partnership between governments, local communities, religious leaders, civil society, private sector and the media, including the setting up of national counter-radicalization observatories, in the fight against groups promoting radicalization and violent extremism, as well as genocidal ideology. In this respect, it was stressed that such groups should in no way be sanitized;
- (ii) the importance of continued and in-depth dialogue on strategic issues of common interest;
- (iii) the need to provide a platform for victims of terrorist acts who can play a critical role in highlighting the human cost of terrorism and providing a counter narrative to extremism, building on the recommendations made by the Symposium organized by the AU Commission in Algiers, Algeria, from 27 to 28 October 2014; and
- (iv) the need for Member States to effectively implement economic development and poverty alleviation policies and programmes to deprive extremists of an environment conducive to the recruitment and radicalization/indoctrination/exploitation of vulnerable youths.

10. Participants expressed the commitment of their respective countries and organizations to deepen cooperation, in order to better respond to existing and emerging threats in the region. In this respect, they agreed on the following steps:

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- (i) intensification of the interaction among the countries and institutions concerned to ensure continuous review of the security situation and the level of the threats posed by the terrorist and criminal groups in the region;
- (ii) promotion of confidence building among the different services of the region, as the guiding principle to facilitate the enhancement of security cooperation in the region;
- (iii) exchange of contact details among the countries and institutions concerned, in order to facilitate regular interaction, as well as timely exchange of intelligence. The AU Commission is to facilitate the process and ensure the necessary follow-up;
- (iv) establishment, with the support of the AU and CISSA, of a secure communication system among the intelligence and security services of the countries of the region, within the framework of the enlarged system programmed for all the CISSA member services;
- (v) enhancement of national operational capacities and expansion of internal expertise, through training programmes and improved access to new technologies. In this regard, the ACSRT and CISSA, based on assessments already undertaken, are requested to develop a capacity building matrix for the next 6 months and present it at the next meeting for endorsement;
- (vi) joint efforts by the countries of the region and the AU Commission, through the ACSRT, towards the harmonization of IGAD and EAC counter-terrorism strategies, in order to come up with a comprehensive regional counter-terrorism strategy for the East Africa region;
- (vii) enhancement, as appropriate, of Member States' legal systems, taking into account respect for human rights. In this regard, the AU Commission is to disseminate the AU Model Law on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism to the HISS of the countries of the region, as well as communicate to them necessary information on the type of assistance that could be rendered to Member States;
- (viii) establishment of a Regional Fusion Centre in Kampala, Uganda, and national Situation Rooms, with a view to facilitating exchange of relevant information and the conduct of joint counterterrorism/counter crime operations. Financial Intelligence Units should be embedded in the proposed Fusion Centre, in order to facilitate sharing of relevant information among the countries of the region. The AU Commission will assist in this process, particularly with respect to national Situation Rooms, through the provision of adequate support, including Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, training and expertise;

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- (ix) enhanced cooperation between military and intelligence structures, to improve intelligence collection and facilitate the conduct of joint operations by the concerned structures;
- (x) establishment of a Joint Operations Centre (JOC) between IGAD and EAC Member States;
- (xi) increased border control capacities, given the vast, porous and inadequately monitored borders in many countries in the region, including recruitment and training of border management and customs officials;
- (xii) further development and enhancement of counter-radicalization and violent extremism programmes; and
- (xiii) conduct of a study on the impact ISIL and AQAP on the configuration and evolution of terrorist groups in the IGAD and EAC regions.

11. Participants agreed to institutionalize the meeting of the HISS through the launching of a process named the Djibouti Process for the Enhancement of Security Cooperation in East Africa. They agreed to meet every three months, within this framework.

12. Participants welcomed the offer by Uganda to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the HISS, at a date to be agreed upon through consultations between the Commission and the relevant Ugandan authorities.

13. Participants thanked the AU Commission taking the initiative to convene this meeting. They expressed appreciation to the Government of Djibouti for all the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the meeting.