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REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON OF THE
AU COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION AND
COMBATING OF TERRORISM
I. **Introduction**

1. The events of September 11, 2001, renewed the urgency to give practical effect to the Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and to harmonise counter-terrorism activities in Africa in light of the adoption of the UN Resolution 1373. The importance of implementing the Convention as the basic framework for fighting terrorism in Africa is the light of the new threats associated with terrorism, was stressed in several meetings of the OAU/AU Policy Organs, immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001.

2. The Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, met at Ambassadorial level on September 20, 2001. It condemned the dreadful attacks on the United States, and urged Member States, which had not done so, to sign and ratify the Algiers Convention. In the Dakar Declaration of October 17, 2001, African leaders who met at the initiative of President Abdoulaye Wade, issued a strong appeal to African countries to ratify, as a matter of urgency, the Algiers Convention, and to convene an extraordinary summit to discuss the progress made in Africa in the fight against terrorism. Subsequently, the 5th Extraordinary Session of the Central Organ at Ministerial level, held in New York in November 2001, stressed the need for African countries to work in harmony with the international community in the fight against terrorism.

3. It was against this background, that the AU Commission convened a High Level Intergovernmental Meeting for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, in Algiers from September 11 – 14, 2002. The Algiers Meeting brought together forty-nine delegations from AU Member States, the United States, the UN System, the European Union, and other International Organizations. The Meeting gave a concrete expression to the determination of Member States of the African Union, to spare no efforts in confronting terrorism in all its aspects. Additionally, the convening of the Algiers Meeting was motivated by a common recognition among African countries that, given the seriousness and violent form of modern terrorism, its eradication requires a firm commitment by Member States to pursue a common objective and that joint action must be taken at the intergovernmental level for exchanging
information on the activities and movements of terrorist groups in Africa; mutual legal assistance; co-ordinating border surveillance; developing and strengthening border control-points; and combating illicit imports and exports and stockpiling of arms, ammunition and explosives.

4. After three days of deliberations on all aspects of terrorism and how AU Member States could work together to prevent terrorist activities in Africa, the Algiers High Level Meeting adopted the “Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa,” which addressed key areas of the UN Security Council Resolution 1373. The Plan also provided a framework for action and co-operative measures for African countries in key areas of the counter-terrorism campaign including police and border control, legislative and judicial measures, suppressing the financing of terrorism, exchange of information, co-ordination at regional, continental and international levels.

5. The Plan of Action also provides for a range of preventive measures and a recommendation for the African Union to establish an African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism in Algiers. Additionally, and as a supplement to the Algiers Convention, the Plan of Action called for AU Members to speed up the ratification of the 1999 Convention for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. The Algiers Meeting also requested the AU Commission to prepare a draft additional Protocol to the Convention, after soliciting views and comments from Member States.

6. Following the Algiers Meeting, the 86th Ordinary Session of the Central Organ meeting at Ambassadorial level in October 2002, endorsed the Work Programme of the Commission, which *inter alia*, identified the following priority areas in the implementation of the Algiers Plan of Action:

   I. Signing and ratification of the Algiers Convention; and

   II. Follow-up on the Plan of Action adopted by the High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, held in Algiers from 11 to 14 September 2002.

7. In pursuance of the above priorities, the Commission carried out a range of activities to facilitate the early entering into force of the 1999 Convention. In this context, the Commission continued to encourage
Member States through regular reminders, to expedite the ratification process in accordance with their national constitution and legislation.

8. In order to prepare the draft of the Additional Protocol as recommended by the meeting of Heads of State and Government in Dakar in October 2001, the Commission had sent reminders to Member States requesting them to forward their inputs for the Draft Protocol, to enable the Commission finalize it as suggested by the Algiers Meeting. So far, only four responses have been received from Member States.


II. Conclusion

10. Given the importance that some Member States attach to the preparation of an additional Protocol to the Algiers Convention, the Commission shall endeavour to prepare and finalize a draft as soon as it receives sufficient inputs from Member States. The Commission wishes also to appeal to Member States that have not already done so, to sign and ratify the Convention.

11. A second priority that Member States need to focus on, is the launching of initiatives to establish and strengthen counter-terrorism regimes at national and regional levels. Though the AU Convention has now entered into force, the counter-terrorism regimes in Africa remain relatively weak, because the Convention has thus far, been ratified by only 17 countries, and the Algiers Plan of Action has not been fully implemented. It is therefore proposed that all the mechanisms proposed in the Plan, be implemented especially, at the national and regional levels, to further strengthen Africa’s commitment to tackle the scourge of terrorism.

III. Recommendation

12. The Commission wishes to recommend that the Executive Council approves the Algiers Plan of Action adopted by the High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, in order to facilitate its early and effective implementation.
AFRICAN UNION HIGH-LEVEL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA

ALGIERS, ALGERIA
11-14 SEPTEMBER 2002

REPORT OF THE
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BACKGROUND AND PARTICIPATION

1. The African Union High-Level Inter-Governmental meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa was held at the Palais des Nations in Algiers, Algeria, from 11 to 14 September 2002.

2. The purpose of the meeting was to deliberate on practical measures for the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa and to consider a Plan of Action for an effective implementation of the Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism of 1999 and other relevant international instruments. The meeting was also aimed at providing representatives of AU Member States, an opportunity to exchange views on the Central Organ Decision of 11 November 2001, including the proposal to prepare a draft Protocol to the Algiers Convention on Terrorism.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of 49 AU Member States, the UN System and other international Organizations, as well as Observers from non-African AU Partner Countries. A list of participants and observers is attached to this Report as an annex.

OPENING SESSION

4. H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister in charge of Maghrebian and African Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, who presided over the opening session of the meeting, welcomed the delegates, Ministers and Parliamentarians, observers and representatives of the Diplomatic Community and the media to the meeting. He paid tribute to H.E. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, for reinforcing the pillars of development and peace on the Continent and for his commitment to the strengthening of consultations/partnerships and coordination in the efforts aimed at combating terrorism in Africa and globally.

5. A minute of silence was observed by all the participants of the meeting in memory of all victims of terrorism.
STATEMENT BY THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF
THE AFRICAN UNION

6. H.E. Mr. Amara Essy, Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, in his address to the meeting, expressed appreciation to H.E. President Bouteflika of Algeria, the Government and People, for the well-known contributions of Algeria to African causes and in particular, to the initiatives that led to the adoption of the 1999 Algiers Convention and most recently, the establishment of the African Union. He highlighted the symbolism of the date and venue of the meeting, one year after the most brutal terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, and three years after the signing of the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, also at the same venue in Algiers.

7. The Interim Chairperson highlighted the global nature and impact of terrorism by recalling some of the previous terrorist attacks that took place in Algeria, Kenya (Nairobi), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam) and South Africa (Cape Town), and which had devastated the lives of many innocent Africans. In conveying the solidarity and sympathies of the Commission of the African Union, to the families of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the USA, Mr. Essy paid particular tribute to the leadership of the United States of America. He recalled Africa’s immediate condemnation of the tragic, brutal and horrendous events of September 11, which solidarity had also been expressed at the Summit meeting of African Heads of State and Government, convened at the initiative of President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, in Dakar on 17 October 2001. The Interim Chairperson also recalled the decision of the Fifth Extraordinary Session of the Central Organ of the OAU, held in New York at Ministerial Level on 11 November 2001, which inter-alia, unequivocally condemned all terrorist acts that target innocent civilian populations.

8. Referring to the substantive work of the meeting of the AU High Level Inter-Governmental meeting, the Interim Chairperson drew attention to the fact that the objective of the meeting was to ensure that Africa is positioned to play its role in the global struggle against terrorism. To this end, it was expected that concrete proposals would emerge from the meeting on how to fulfill the national, regional and international obligations of AU Member States. He urged Member States which had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Algiers Convention of 1999, as a mark of their commitment and political will to tackle the challenges posed by terrorism. Finally, Mr. Essy conveyed Africa’s solidarity with Algeria’s struggle against terrorism, underscoring again, the important contributions that the President and his country had made to the liberation struggle on the Continent and the defence of African causes in general.
MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

9. The Representative of the United Nations, Mr. Alex A. Schmid, Officer in charge of the Terrorism Branch of the UN Center for International Crime Prevention, delivered a message of support for the African initiative from UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan.

10. In the message, the Secretary General recalled that Africa had long experienced the negative effects of terrorist attacks and he applauded African action and measures taken by the Organization in the fight against terrorism and extremism since 1992. He noted that, since 1999, the UN Security Council had intensified its efforts to combat terrorism and that the terrorist attacks on the USA one year ago, had emitted widespread international response for global action against terrorism.

11. The Secretary General added that further steps were required of Africa, within the framework of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001). He assured the meeting that the International Community stood ready to assist Africa in its obligations and commitments in the implementation of the said resolution. He cautioned, however, that the fight against terrorism should not conflict with the basic and existing principles for the promotion and protection of human rights and social justice.

MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN UNION

12. Mrs. Jessie Duarte, Chief Director of the Africa Multilateral Desk in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, delivered a message from H.E. President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and current Chairman of the African Union. In the message, President Mbeki noted that Africans are no strangers to terrorism, as they had been victims of terrorist attacks in different parts of the Continent.

13. He added that this tragic history and the recent events on the Continent and the United States, have reminded the world that terrorism can no longer be ignored. According to him, it was fitting that the first major meeting under the auspices of the African Union should focus on terrorism and take place in Algiers. That reality, he stated, should give practical effect to Africa’s well-known commitment and contribution to the global campaign against terrorism.

14. The President also recognized that the Algiers Convention is a Seminal document in Africa’s anti-terrorism arsenal for combating terrorism. This together with the principles espoused in the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the need to respect the sanctity of human life, condemn and reject all acts of terrorism as well as contribute positively to the strengthening of Africa’s response to terrorism.
MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

15. H.E. Ms. Janet Sanderson, Ambassador of the United States of America to Algeria, delivered a message from United States Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell. The Secretary of State commended President Bouteflika and his Government for convening the AU High Level Inter-Governmental meeting and acknowledged that the African Union can make a major contribution to the global anti-terrorist efforts by taking concrete action to address the challenges posed by terrorism. Such actions, according to Secretary Powell, could include:

• the shutting down of terrorist Organizations, infrastructures and operations; and

• ending terrorists’ abuse of Africa’s legitimate financial institutions, as well as preventing them from abusing African sovereignty, in order to hide from justice.

16. The Secretary of State, noted the presence of so many representatives of AU Member States in Algiers as well as Observers from other countries, which reflected the fact that Africa rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and is prepared to build coalitions and work with the wider international community in the ongoing campaign against terrorism. He stated that the meeting and its outcome will send a message of unity and resolve to the international community and help defeat terrorism.

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

17. In his address to the meeting, H.E. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika welcomed all delegations to Algeria. He noted that the leaders of Africa had deliberately chosen the 11 September 2002 for their meeting to express their sympathy and solidarity with the American people. He also observed that the participation by so many representatives of the international community was a reflection of the shared grief and repulsion that the whole world felt on September 11, 2001. According to him, on that day, one year ago, the world was gripped by the sheer brutality of the events that took place in the United States of America. The universal reaction against those attacks reflected the unambiguous and principled condemnation of terrorism by peace loving peoples throughout the world.

18. President Bouteflika stated that Algeria was honoured to host the meeting and welcomed Member States’ solidarity with his country as a clear expression of Africa’s determination to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
According to him, as a country, Algeria belongs to the group of the poor nations of the world that need assistance to fight terrorism. Nevertheless, the country remains determined to overcome terrorism even within the limits of its little resources. The President stated that a greater degree of global cooperation was needed to shut down international terrorist networks that acted in alliance with transnational organized crime, such as money-laundering, drug and arms-trafficking. In that regard, the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1373 and ratification and implementation of the Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism was vital.

19. President Bouteflika added that exclusion and poverty were fertile grounds for the growth and recruitment of extremists, and the propagation of violent ideologies. He added that terrorism derived not only from religious extremism, but was also the result of social inequality. Each country had its own cultural specificities, but there needed to be a common resolve to ensure the enhancement of the dignity and inclusion of poor communities and nations in the context of globalization. The President also contended that there is need to establish genuine dialogue between cultures and civilizations in order to promote greater understanding and global peace. He also cautioned against equating the legitimate struggles of oppressed and marginalized peoples with terrorism, pointing out that it was important for Africa to take an objective view of current and future terrorist threats, with a view to containing them.

20. President Bouteflika also proposed the establishment of an African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism. He appealed for international assistance in this and other national, regional and continental measures to be adopted in the proposed Plan of Action. In conclusion, the President strongly urged the Algerian people to embrace and promote his initiative for Civil Concord which was the outcome of a national referendum for all Algerians. At the continental level, he called on the people of Africa and the world at large, to unite in the global fight against terrorism.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

21. Following consultations, the meeting elected its Bureau as follows:

   - Chairman – Algeria (North)
   - First Vice-chairman – Uganda (East)
   - Second Vice-chairman – Niger (West)
   - Third Vice-chairman – Gabon (Central)
   - Rapporteur – Mozambique (South)

22. Following his election, the Chairman and Honourable Minister of Algeria for Magrebian and African Affairs, Mr. Messahel expressed his appreciation to all
the delegates for the confidence reposed in his country and in him personally, as well as in the other members of the Bureau.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

23. The meeting adopted the following agenda to guide its deliberations:

1. Opening Session
   - Welcome statement by the Minister in charge of Maghrebian and African Affairs of Algeria
   - Statement by the Interim Chairperson of the Commission
   - Message of the Secretary General of the United Nations
   - Message of the Chairman of the African Union
   - Message of the Secretary of State of the USA
   - Statement of H.E. the President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria

2. Election of the Bureau

3. Adoption of the Agenda

4. Organization of Work

5. The Challenge of Terrorism:
   - The African Perspective
   - The Global Response

   a. General Aspects
   b. Specific Aspects
      - Police and Border Control
      - Judicial
      - Finance
      - Information
   c. Coordination at Regional, Continental and International Levels
7. Exchange of views on the Central Organ Decision of 11 November 2001, including the proposal to prepare a draft additional Protocol to the OAU Convention on Terrorism

8. Adoption of the Draft Plan of Action and Protocol to the Algiers Convention

9. Adoption of the Report

10. Any other business

11. Closing session

AGENDA ITEM 4 – ORGANIZATION OF WORK

24. The meeting adopted the following working hours:

   Morning session   09:00 – 13:00
   Afternoon session   15:00 – 17:00

AGENDA ITEM 5 – THE CHALLENGE OF TERRORISM

A) The African Perspective

25. Ambassador Saïd Djinnit, Interim Commissioner of the African Union, presented the African perspective on the nature of the challenges posed by terrorism, especially in Africa. He recalled that in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States of America, there was a general sense of solidarity and outrage in Africa. He provided an overview of the initiatives taken by Africans as part of the campaign aimed at combating terrorism. These included:

   - the meeting in Dakar in 1992 on the Relations between Member States, and the rejection of extremism;

   - the adoption by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 1994 of the Declaration on the Code of Conduct for Inter-African Relations [AGH/Decl. 2 (XXX)]. The Declaration rejected fanaticism and extremism, whatever their nature, origin and form. Religious extremism and terrorist acts were unreservedly condemned;

   - the initiative by the Government of Algeria and the OAU in 1999, that led to the adoption of the Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;
• the convening of the Dakar Summit in October 2001 at the initiative of President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal;

• the convening, at the initiative of the Sudan, of the Fifth Extraordinary Session of the OAU Central Organ at Ministerial level in November 2001, in New York.

26. Emphasizing also the global nature and the negative impact of terrorism, Amb. Djinnit stated that no one is safe from terrorism given the heightened threats from a wide range of weapons of mass destruction, which could fall into the wrong hands of terrorists. Drawing lessons from Africa’s experiences in the past, the Interim Commissioner posed the following questions:

• What can Africa do given the new threats?

• How can the Continent move from Declarations to action at the operational level?

• How can AU Member States expedite the process of ratifying the Algiers Convention as a mark of their political will and commitment to the anti-terrorism campaign?

• What further contributions can Africa make to the global campaign against terrorism, in which it has a vested interest?

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND COUNTRY REPORTS

27. In the general debate that followed the Commissioner’s presentation, all the delegations that took the floor welcomed and expressed appreciation and support for the initiatives taken by the Government of Algeria and the AU Commission, on the issue of terrorism. In particular, they expressed solidarity with the People and Government of Algeria, for all the efforts deployed by the President and his Government to address the terrorist threats to the democratic dispensation in the country.

28. Many delegations reported on the national and regional activities they had undertaken as part of the efforts to combat terrorism, as well as provided information on the status of the processes for the signing and/or ratification of the Algiers Convention and other relevant International Conventions. In that regard, the delegations of South Africa, Sudan and Ghana in particular, announced that their countries had ratified the Algiers Convention of 1999 and that the instruments of ratification would soon be deposited with the AU Commission. The meeting welcomed the news of the ratifications and the fact as pointed out by the Chairman, that the required number of ratifications has
now been met, which meant that after thirty days, the Algiers Convention would come into force.

29. There were other general trends and issues which featured consistently in the interventions of many delegations, including the following positions elaborated by the Representatives of AU Member States:

- Nothing can justify the terrorist attacks that took place in the United States on 11 September 2001, as well as the other attacks that had taken place earlier in Algeria, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and other places;

- Terrorism knows no border, religion, race and ideology. Indeed, it was repeatedly stressed that terrorism has no ideology, even if they exploit existing ideologies. The point was also made that acts of terrorism are criminal acts and not political statements;

- Combating terrorism and eradicating it in all its forms and manifestations, would require partnership, resources, cooperation in information collection and exchange as well as harmonization of initiatives including at the level of the United Nations, where a global consensus should be forged.

30. One delegation drew attention to the need to address the problem of refugees, whose camps, have often, in some situations, provided the basis for extremism and fanaticism and therefore, provided recruitment grounds for terrorists. The example of the genocide in Rwanda and the terrorist networks established in Afghanistan during the era of the Taliban, who at some point, were refugees in Pakistan, were cited as examples of why the issue of refugees needed to be tackled in a comprehensive manner. Another delegation stressed the need to find a solution to the Palestinian question and to work towards the establishment of a democratic and independent State that will guarantee its national and legitimate rights, as well as eliminate terrorism.

31. The need to address the deep root causes of poverty, human rights abuses, conflicts, under-development, inequality, deprivation and instability that have often been used to fuel terrorist agendas, was also stressed. Delegations called for the forging of genuine partnerships between development partners and African countries. In that regard, they appealed for support, including the provision of financial resources, in order to enable African countries make meaningful contributions to the struggle against terrorism, by implementing their initiatives and meeting international obligations.

32. The delegation of Algeria recalled the statement of H.E. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria on the need to establish an African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism. He repeated his country’s offer to host such a Center. Many delegations spoke on
this issue and expressed support in principle for the Algerian proposal and the choice of Algiers as venue for the Center.

B) The Global Response

33. Introducing the Agenda item on the global response to terrorism, Mr. Alex Schmid, Officer-in-Charge of the Terrorism Branch of the Center for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations, stated that one of the most important achievements of the UN was the establishment of a common legal framework for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. Unfortunately, the levels of ratification and implementation of these international Conventions have varied greatly in different parts of the world. No systematic monitoring had been done; no implementation machinery had been established to evaluate national measures that would incorporate the provisions of the Convention in the various national laws in each contracting party. According to him, it is expected that UNSC Resolution 1373 would provide such a mechanism.

34. Mr. Schmid also informed the meeting that the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) is providing technical assistance in four key policy areas, namely money-laundering, corruption, trafficking in human beings and organized crime. It is also planning to launch a new Global Programme against Terrorism to assist countries in taking concrete steps towards becoming parties to, and implementing, the international instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. The Global Programme would facilitate the drawing up of legislative guidelines and implementation kits in one African country to establish their usefulness and practicability. In conclusion, Mr. Schmid expressed the Center’s desire to enter into partnership with the AU and other regional organizations so that together they could have a bigger impact on tackling international terrorism.

35. Ambassador Curtis A. Ward, Advisor on Technical Assistance for the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), focused his remarks on the obligations of States pursuant to the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001; the role of the CTC in monitoring the implementation of the resolution and the CTC’s technical assistance programme. He reported on the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1373, and listed the mandatory requirements of the Resolution, noting that they placed an immense burden on all States, and that States possessed varying capacities to implement them. According to Amb. Ward, as of 3/9/02, 170 States had filed first reports to the CTC. Twelve countries from Africa had not yet done so. In spite of the state of affairs, he noted the spirit of cooperation that existed between the States and the CTC. He advised that States which lack capacity to compile the report, should seek assistance through the CTC, which offer was welcomed by many delegations.
36. Mr. Okan Aysu, Crime Intelligence Officer of the Public Safety and Terrorism Sub-Directorate of Interpol provided a comprehensive report on the involvement of the Interpol General Secretariat in the fight against international terrorism.

37. He recalled the fact that Interpol’s involvement in the anti-terrorist campaign dated back to 1985, when the 54th General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the creation of a Specialized Group within the then Police Division of Interpol to coordinate and enhance cooperation in combating international terrorism. He added that the resolution also called for the preparation of an instruction manual, outlining the practical possibilities that existed for cooperation in dealing with terrorist cases. According to him, that policy had over the years remained valid in all Interpol activities and intervention in the prevention and combating of terrorism.

38. He pointed out that since 11 September 2001, the Interpol Command Center has further enhanced cooperation and addressed thousands of messages and cases related to terrorist activities, directly and indirectly linked to the September 11 terrorist bombings as well as suspected cases of anthrax poisoning, financing of terrorism, threats of chemical and biological attacks and aviation related cases. He noted that there were still deficiencies in sharing intelligence and police information, but called for a more pro-active approach and reaction so as to sustain international law enforcement efforts.

39. Mr. Okan Aysu also expressed regret over the fact that so far, only a few African countries have contacted Interpol in terms of messages and collaboration on the issue of terrorism.

40. Following the presentations of the Representatives of the International Organizations dealing with the issue of terrorism, there was an interactive exchange of views between the Representatives of AU Member States participating at the meeting and the Representatives of several AU Partner Countries who intervened during the deliberations. Generally, the exchanges focused on actions taken both especially at the national and regional levels as well as those taken at the international level to put an end to terrorism. The delegations all stressed the need for the forging of international cooperation through partnerships and support, as essential elements in the campaign to combat terrorism.

41. At the end of the consideration of the Agenda item, the Chairman thanked all the delegations that provided information on the actions and initiatives taken by their respective countries to eradicate terrorism. He also expressed appreciation to them for supporting the proposal to establish an African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism and the choice of Algiers to host such a Center.
42. He assured the meeting that the next Summit of the Assembly of the African Union scheduled to take place in Mozambique, would be presented with a report on the outcome of the AU High Inter-Governmental meeting on Terrorism.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 - CONSIDERATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALGIERS CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS**

43. Ambassador Said Djinnit, Interim Commissioner of the African Union introduced the Agenda item. He highlighted the different processes that culminated in the elaboration of the Plan of Action, including the meetings that the staff of the Commission had with Experts from some AU Member States which had experiences in dealing with the scourge of terrorism and the South African based Institute for Security Studies.

44. He explained that elements for the Plan of Action emerged from the Background document, which was a reflection of the actions and initiatives of the OAU over the years, as well as the African and global consensus on the issue of terrorism, especially after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

45. Ambassador Djinnit explained that the Plan of Action was designed in such a way as to give effect to the implementation of the Algiers Convention of 1999, and also to enhance cooperation by AU Member States in all aspects of the campaign against terrorism. He highlighted in particular, the provisions for monitoring the implementation of AU Decisions and Declarations on terrorism as one of the new innovations brought about by the change from the OAU to the AU.

46. The Commissioner thereafter, took the meeting through the different sections of the Plan of Action including its General Aspects, its Specific Aspects and the part dealing with coordination at the Regional, Continental and International levels.

47. Following the presentation of the document by the Interim Commissioner and the preliminary remarks as well as the clarifications offered by the Chairman of the meeting, the participants proceeded to consider the draft Plan of Action as presented.

48. During the consideration of the draft Plan of Action, there was a lively and frank exchange of views on the different aspects of the Plan. Some amendments were also made to the draft. At the end of the discussions, the meeting adopted the Plan of Action as amended.
AGENDA ITEM 7 – EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE CENTRAL ORGAN
DECISION OF 11 NOVEMBER 2001, INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL TO
PREPARE A DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE ALGIERS
CONVENTION ON TERRORISM

49. This item was introduced by Ambassador Said Djinnit, Interim
Commissioner. He recalled the context in which the draft Protocol was prepared
with special reference to the Declaration of the October 2001 Dakar Summit and
the Communiqué issued by the Ministerial Session of the Central Organ held in
Djinnit highlighted the follow-up mechanism provided for under the Protocol
through the political coordinating role assigned to the Peace and Security
Council, with the assistance of the Commission of the African Union, notably the
Commissioner in charge of peace and security matters. Concluding, Amb. Djinnit
emphasized the need to adopt the draft Protocol to ensure the follow-up on the
Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

50. The leader of the Senegalese delegation underscored the reasons
militating in favour of the adoption of the draft Protocol. He said that the
September 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States had revealed new
realities which should be taken into account, adding that apart from the Plan of
Action, the present meeting was expected to adopt a draft Protocol.

51. In the ensuing debate, some delegations questioned the need for
adopting a draft Protocol, arguing as follows:

- The Protocol is a reaffirmation of the provisions already contained in the
  Convention, and adds nothing new. Most of the measures contained in the
draft Protocol are administrative measures, which are covered in the Plan
of Action adopted by the meeting;

- At this stage, the focus should be on the operationalization of the Algiers
  Convention as envisaged in the Plan of Action rather than the elaboration
  of a new Protocol;

- From the legal standpoint, only States Parties to the Convention on the
  Prevention and Combating of Terrorism can initiate the process of
  elaborating a draft Protocol, in accordance with Article 21 of the
  Convention;

52. Other delegations, however, argued in favour of the draft Protocol to the
Convention, stating that:
• the 1999 Convention has a number of loopholes which need to be addressed. The Convention does not criminalize the financing of terrorism, neither does it contain an implementation and follow-up mechanism;

• the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 have brought to light new realities which should be taken into account;

• in-depth studies had been conducted for the preparation of the draft Protocol and the existence of the Plan of Action cannot justify the report under consideration.

53. Following this exchange of views, the Chairman summed up as follows:

• The meeting recalls the provisions of the Declaration adopted by the African Summit held in Dakar in October 2001, and the decision of the Ministerial Session of the OAU Central Organ held in New York in November 2001 on the preparation of a draft Additional Protocol to the Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which underscores the need for such a Protocol;

• The meeting takes note with appreciation of the draft Protocol prepared by the Commission and urges the latter to examine in greater detail the various aspects of the additional Protocol by incorporating therein, in addition to the follow-up mechanism, other provisions aimed at complementing and updating the Algiers Convention. In this connection, it suggests that the Commission collect the proposals of AU Member States and submit a comprehensive draft Protocol to the State Parties to the Convention and to the deliberating Organs of the AU within the shortest possible time, for consideration by the next African Union Summit in Maputo.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

54. The meeting adopted the Plan of Action as amended.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – ADOPTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR’S REPORT

55. The draft Rapporteur’s Report was considered and adopted with some amendments.
AGENDA ITEM 10 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

56. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

CLOSING SESSION
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