

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that Mozambique, under its presidency of the Security Council for the month of March 2023, will hold a high-level debate on the theme “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism by strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and mechanisms”, to be held on 28 March at 10 a.m., presided by the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi.

In order to guide the discussions, Mozambique has prepared a concept note (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro Comissário
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council high-level debate on the theme “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism by strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and mechanisms”

I. Introduction

In March 2023, Mozambique, under its presidency of the Security Council, intends to organize a high-level thematic debate, on the theme “Countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism by strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and mechanisms” under the agenda item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”.

The event aims at leveraging actions by the Security Council to explore and strengthen opportunities for engagements under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations in support of counter-terrorism initiatives on the African continent.

The importance of international and regional cooperation has been highlighted on multiple occasions by the Security Council. In its resolutions [2322 \(2016\)](#), [2331 \(2016\)](#), [2341 \(2017\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), among others, the Security Council stresses the importance of international cooperation in addressing terrorism, as well as the important role that regional organizations can play in that regard. In its resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#), the Council also calls for regional cooperation to counter the threat of drug trafficking, which can contribute to the financial resources of terrorist groups.

This approach is anchored in the vast accumulated experience of the continent in conflict resolution, the knowledge of local realities by regional organizations and the recent examples of regional partnerships in the fight against terrorism, in the context of the “silencing the guns in Africa” initiative of the African Union.

The high-level debate will provide the Security Council with an opportunity to reflect and improve upon the cooperation framework between the United Nations, the African Union and African subregional organizations, in particular in the context of countering terrorism, taking into account that the lessons learned can be useful and extend to other regions of the world affected by terrorism.

II. Context

Terrorism is a pressing phenomenon with a global dimension. It is currently the predominant face of the scourge of war that the Charter intended to eliminate collectively when it was adopted in 1945.

Chapter VIII of the Charter, in its Articles 52 to 54, provides an appropriate framework for collaboration and the sharing of responsibilities between the United Nations and regional and subregional bodies and mechanisms in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union has undergone a substantive leap since the establishment of joint annual consultations

between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, through the most recent presidential declaration of the Security Council of 28 October 2021 (S/PRST/2021/21) and the 2017 Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, among other commitments.

As highlighted in the 2015 report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, regional mechanisms and forces constitute an option to be seriously considered in the fight against terrorism.

Hence, organizations such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development present an evolved and solid normative framework, having engaged in peace support operations and, more recently, under a strictly regional mandate, in counterterrorism actions. An example of this is the SADC Mission in Mozambique, deployed in July 2021, in support of the Government of Mozambique in countering terrorism.

From the varied experiences in countering terrorism, it is possible to identify, among others, the following challenges:

- (a) The recourse to regional solutions resulting from security pacts and bilateral mechanisms;
- (b) The scarcity of financial and material resources for surveillance and other military use;
- (c) The coordination of priorities among the different actors, taking into account the metamorphic nature of terrorist acts in different geographical contexts.

III. Reference questions

Member States are encouraged to focus their interventions and recommendations around the following issues and topics for debate:

- (a) What experiences and practices, at the United Nations and at the regional and bilateral levels, can be promoted and institutionalized for countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations?
- (b) How can opportunities for international cooperation to counter the spread of terrorism in the African continent be maximized, including by cutting its funding sources?
- (c) What development initiatives should be promoted, in developing countries, with an emphasis on Africa, to promote community resilience, as an integral step in the global strategy to prevent violent extremism, considering the instrumentalization of poverty as a mechanism of mobilization and recruitment?
- (d) How can Member States readjust the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, considering the reality and nature of the characteristics of terrorism in Africa, during the eighth review of the Strategy, scheduled to take place in June 2023?

IV. Format

A high-level debate chaired by the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, to be held in New York on 28 March 2023.

V. Speakers

To be communicated at a later stage.

In order to guarantee the participation of as many delegations as possible, statements should not exceed three minutes.

VI. Result

To be negotiated.
