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**10th COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE UN GLOBAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION COMPACT**

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**“Strategic Coordination of CT initiatives in Africa:
Challenges and Opportunities”**

Statement

By

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to express my gratitude to members of the Coordination Committee of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Coordination Compact and H.E Vladimir VORONKOV, the Under Secretary-General, UN office of Counter-terrorism for the invitation extended to me to contribute to this important debate . Allow me to reiterate ECOWAS' commitment to cooperating with the UN office of Counter-terrorism in addressing the threat of terrorism in our region, in line with the MoU we signed in September 2023 in New York.

Terrorism is undoubtedly the major security threat faced by ECOWAS Member States. Initially confined to certain countries in the Sahel (Mali and Niger) and the Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria), terrorist attacks have multiplied and spread to other countries (Burkina Faso) and are now a real threat to coastal countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo).

Victims of insecurity - those killed, maimed, and displaced and those who have lost livelihoods and educational opportunities - are the



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subject of conflicting figures. Yet all the figures are indicative of the pain and suffering that insecurity continues to inflict on the people particularly in the Sahelian member states of ECOWAS.

For example, in 2023, 3587 incidents of terrorist attacks were recorded in the ECOWAS region. These include close to 2000 in Burkina Faso; over 1044 in Mali; 500 in Niger.

These incidents have resulted in close to 9000 fatalities: including 7000 in the 3 Sahelian Countries Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Terrorist incidents in the coastal region include 177 in Benin and Togo that resulted in 203 death

In addition to the unbearable toll on human lives, insecurity continues to have dire humanitarian consequences.

In just the 3 ECOWAS Sahelian Countries i.e Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, a total of 4.8 million people faced food insecurity, 2.4



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million people were internally-displaced and close to 9000 schools remained closed.

A disaggregation of the data shows that Burkina Faso had the highest number of food-insecure people - close to 2.2 million; followed by Niger with 1.9 million and Mali about 800 000. Burkina Faso also accounts for the largest number of internally displaced people - about 2 million; while Mali and Niger each have close to half a million displaced persons. The number of schools closed stood at 6 000 in Burkina Faso, 1700 in Mali and 1000 in Niger.

The transnational nature of terrorism threat and the important resources required to counter the menace have forced Member States to initiate collective actions within the framework of existing regional and continental groupings or through the creation of ad-hoc arrangements. In addition, partner states and institutions have launched some initiatives aiming at contributing to the fight against terrorism. Therefore in addition to ECOWAS own Counter-terrorism initiatives, there have been multiple other initiatives in the region,



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including Multinational Joint Task Force of the Lake Chad basin Commission (MNJTF), Nouakchott Process (AU), Accra Initiative, Barkhane, European Union Capacity Building Mission in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger), Minusma and G5 Sahel until recently.

Indeed, the various initiatives have all had important impact in the region. However they have been found to be fragmented and have given rise to problems of coordination, ownership, and inclusion.

This is why as ECOWAS, our proposal is to integrate the various initiatives into the regional Plan of Action and use them as specialized operational tools of the regional mechanism. This will facilitate coordination, promote ownership, and enhance inclusion.

Finally, Excellencies, this regional resolve does not take away UN Security Council's responsibility in the maintenance of world peace. In this regard, we reiterate our appreciation to the general support given to Africa's call for a predictable funding of Africa-led peace support missions through the assessed contribution.



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I thank you for your attention.