

OPEN BRIEFING OF THE UN COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

“Countering Incitement to Commit Terrorist Acts Motivated by Extremism and Intolerance: the Kingdom of Morocco's Approach and Experiences of other African States”

TALKING POINTS OF AMBASSADOR NASSER BOURITA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO -New York, 30 September 2014 -

I- Introductory Remarks:

1. I would like to begin by **congratulating**, on behalf of the Moroccan delegation, Her Excellency Mrs Raimonda MURMOKAITÉ, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania, for **the positive dynamic** she has brought to Committee's proceedings.
2. Indeed, **besides its core mandate** (promotion of the rules established by the SC and the monitoring of the implementation by member states of their obligations), the CTC offers Member States a **forum for constructive dialogue**, and a platform for **experiences sharing and identification** of best practices.
3. **Thank SG** for keeping the issue on the top of the UN priorities.
4. I equally wish to take this opportunity to highly commend the strong leadership of **Mr Jean-Paul LABORDE**, Executive Director of the CTED and congratulate his very professional team for the successful preparation of this briefing.

II- Significance of Morocco's presence at the Briefing:

The positive response of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the request of organizing such briefing and the presence today of a high level delegation, is significant at many levels:

- Firstly, it reflects Morocco's **permanent commitment to counterterrorism** and its constant mobilization in support of the International Community's efforts in this field.
- It equally illustrates Morocco's firm belief that the fight against terrorism is a **collective endeavour to which all members** of the International Community must contribute.
- Finally, it underlines Morocco's willingness to **adhere to international best practices** and **share its own experience** with other interested Member States.

III- This briefing is important and timely

- **Events on the ground and daily news** remind us that **we can no longer afford to wait**; we need to redouble our action and solidarity to face this common threat.
- Even though terrorist groups have evolved in their methods, **their recruitment tactics remain unchanged**:
 - The culture of hate and intolerant rejection of the Other still lie at the heart of their marketing strategy;
 - Vengeful extremism, the distortion of religion and deceitful exploitation of its precepts still drive their ideology;
 - Frustration, ignorance and poverty still provide them with the most fertile recruitment grounds.
- The religious and cultural dimension is key to any efficient fight against terrorism. **It is part of the UN strategy** of 2006. Unfortunately, it didn't get the interest and the importance it deserves.
- Resolution 2178 adopted by the Security Council Summit last week **underlined the importance of the fight against** radicalization and violent extremism.
- Often, the religious dimension was reduced to conceptual debates and theoretical discussions. Today's briefing will show that it is **about real actions, concrete projects and tangible results**.

IV- The Moroccan demarche is global and coherent

- 1- Morocco's counterterrorism policy has been **shaped from the pragmatism** and the hands-on experience obtained from policies tried and tested on the ground.
- 2- In conformity with His Majesty's directives, the Moroccan demarche is :
 - **Global**, since it relies on many dimensions;
 - It is also **coherent**, as the initiatives undertaken at the national level are compatible and complementary with the actions developed at the international level, particularly with African countries.
- 3- It is a **global strategy that is always evolving to adapt to the reality of our changing environment**.
- 4- It is based on **3 main pillars**:
 - Enhancing security governance and upgrading counterterrorist legislation;
 - Fighting against social inequalities and promoting human development;
 - Reforming the religious field.

5- Morocco is convinced that there can be no sustainable peace or stability particularly in Africa without three essential prerequisites: Security; Fair and inclusive human development; and the preservation and promotion of authentic cultural and religious values.

The issue of counterterrorism cannot be exclusively addressed through the security dimension. The risks resulting from such an overly simplistic and limited approach are far too great and the threat is not irreversible.

The security response is indispensable but it is not sufficient. It should be complemented by a strategic preventive commitment at the political, socio-economical and religious levels.

At the same time, to be conducive, the religious dimension should be accompanied by the other dimensions, particularly in terms of security and the development ones.

- **Firstly, the need to strengthen political stability and good security governance.** Today, more than ever, a stable State, capable of defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity, is the best guarantee of security for populations and neighbouring countries. It is in this context that Morocco is contributing actively to many stabilisation processes particularly in Africa. Stability is a precious “acquis” that we need to preserve.
- **Secondly, the need for greater efforts in the fight against poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.** Morocco is convinced that socio-economic development must remain at the very heart of any counterterrorism strategy seeking sustainable, long-term success. The International Community must identify the necessary means to help developing countries, particularly Africans, to overcome this challenge, namely by addressing the issue of poverty in a pragmatic and solidary way. This is the main message of His Majesty’s the King statement before the current session of the G.A.
 - At the national level, His Majesty the King has launched in 2005 the NHDI to fight exclusion, social deficits and poverty. 10 years after, almost 7 million people, benefited from more than 34.000 projects targeting youth, women....

- At the regional level, Morocco has established humanitarian and development aid in Africa amongst its top diplomatic priorities. This is carried out through the implementation of strategic projects (Morocco-Gabon) but also through small but concrete and well-define cooperation projects, benefitting the poorest populations in essential sectors covering basic needs such as access to health, water, agriculture and fisheries, education and training, and electricity.

To conclude:

1. Morocco's contribution to the fight against terrorism reflects its firm belief that an effective international counterterrorism strategy must be implemented at three levels: national, regional and international. The regional dimension is only meaningful if it is developed in a constructive spirit, with no exclusion or political tactics.
2. Morocco continues to support and contribute to the actions initiated by the CTC and its Executive Directorate, seeking to develop cooperation between African states and reinforce their capacities in the field of counterterrorism and the fight against violent extremism.