



Call of the Sahel: Issued by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the G5 Sahel, the Arab Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

9 September 2021, Vienna, Austria

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Arab Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the G5 Sahel, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

Reaffirming their joint commitment to the security, stability and development of the Sahel region and to listening to the call of its peoples,

Expressing their deep concern regarding the deterioration of the situation in the Sahel region in relation to the proliferation of the terrorist plague facing the region and the dangerous situation prevailing on the ground, as well as the fact that the region is facing multiple challenges linked to terrorism and transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, illegal immigration, the proliferation of weapons, illicit drug trafficking and latent armed conflicts, and that the region is also facing environmental degradation and climate change, leading to food insecurity and nutritional crises, all of which constitute a global threat to peace and security and a major problem for neighbouring regions,

Acknowledging, in this regard, that all the above-mentioned challenges have aggravated an already precarious security situation, created a humanitarian crisis including the displacement of populations within countries of the region and to neighbouring countries, and undermined development efforts,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of Member Parliaments and their respective national institutions in countering terrorism,

Concerned that terrorist groups continue to endeavour to exploit underlying conditions in certain countries, including the limited reach and capacity of governments in delivering essential services such as law enforcement and security institutions,

Emphasizing that the enhancement of the capabilities and capacities of State institutions, where applicable and upon request, to prevent and counter terrorism is a pivotal component of successful efforts against terrorism,

Underscoring the need of the Sahel countries to strengthen, where appropriate, their criminal justice, law enforcement and border-control capacities, and to develop their capacities to investigate, prosecute, disrupt and dismantle trafficking networks to address the links between terrorism and organized crime, whether domestic or transnational, and to protect the human rights of the victims of terrorism,

Recognizing the importance of education and development as key tools in preventing violent extremism,

Further recognizing that international cooperation and any measures taken by States and their legislative authorities to prevent and combat terrorism, as well as to prevent violent extremism and tackle the conditions conducive to terrorism, require a comprehensive approach and a multidimensional strategy, which must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the purposes and principles thereof, and relevant international conventions and protocols,

Noting that, over the past few years, the countries of the region have made sustained efforts within the constraints of their limited resources, both individually and collectively, to address the challenges that they face,



Noting with appreciation the developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress terrorism in the Sahel region, whether domestic or transnational, including the essential role of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the G5 Sahel and the initiatives of the Arab Parliament, with the ultimate aim of supporting the peoples of the Sahel region,

1. *Call upon* the global parliamentary community, international organizations, governments and civil society to renew their global commitment to strengthen international cooperation with the Sahel countries and their peoples in preventing and combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirming that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever they are committed;
2. *Resolve* to work jointly on the elaboration of a work plan based on the needs identified by the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the G5 Sahel;
3. *Call upon* regional parliamentary organizations and national parliaments to join the call of the Sahel in support of the Sahel people;
4. *Call upon* the international community and the UN Security Council to provide support for the G5-Sahel Joint Force by recognizing it as per Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and to equip it with basic capacities for tasks that these countries lack;
5. *Urge* the parliamentarians of all Member Parliaments of the IPU to encourage their respective governments to protect the citizens of the Sahel by requesting that their security and defence services support, improve, and empower the defence and security forces of the Sahel countries with capacities for tasks that these countries lack;
6. *Encourage* Member Parliaments of the IPU to support and engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing legislation and strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, as well as legislation and strategies to counter organized crime, whether domestic or transnational, address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and organized crime that may fund terrorism, including by empowering youth, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, and all other groups of civil society concerned;
7. *Call upon* the IPU's High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG), as the global parliamentary focal point for counter-terrorism related parliamentary activities, to follow up the joint coordination activities in supporting the Sahel countries in the fields of developing policy, laws and the allocation of budget for the implementation of national policies and measures for development, poverty reduction, and the support of youth and victims of terrorism;
8. *Urge* all Parliaments, International Organizations, financial organizations, the private sector and other key partners to lend their support to the implementation of this resolution to follow-up on the Call of the Sahel, to find the institutional modalities to implement its agreed objectives, and to establish partnerships as necessary with international financial organizations and the private sector in order to invest in education, development, poverty reduction and technical training for young people (especially women and girls).