



## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT MEETING ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE G5 SAHEL SECURITY COOPERATION PLATFORM (PCMS)**

**Nouakchott, 8 and 9 November 2016**

A meeting of experts on the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Security Cooperation Platform (PCMS) was held on 8 and 9 November 2016 in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

### **Among others, the meeting was attended by:**

- The national Coordinators of the national units of each of the G5 Sahel States as well as the Regional Coordinator of the PCMS and the G5 Sahel Defence and Security Expert;
- Directors of national counter-terrorism services;
- Directors of national agencies responsible for combating transnational organized crime;
- Directors of the Central drug control institutions;
- Representatives of the Directorate General of the National Police;
- Representatives of the Directorate General of the National Gendarmerie;
- Heads of each National Central Bureau (Interpol);

### **The participants adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:**

**Having regard to** the Convention between our States establishing the G5 Sahel, and in particular its Article 4 (3) thereof, which has the objective of combining development with security in the context of mutually beneficial regional cooperation;

**Having regard to** the final communiqué of the Ordinary Summit of Heads of State of the G5 Sahel in N'Djamena on 20 November 2015, having approved the agreement on the organization and functioning of the Security Cooperation Platform;

**Having regard to** Article 2 of this agreement defining the tasks of the Platform, in particular the mobilization of various security services of the G5 Sahel States, coordinating their efforts and strengthening their capacities to participate collectively in the fight against threats affecting the region, notably terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and other serious forms of transnational crime;

**Having regard to** the conclusions of the special meeting of the Defence and Security Committee of the G5 Sahel States of 3 March 2016 in N'Djamena, and in particular its recommendation regarding the finalization of the establishment of the Platform's structures and equipment to allow it to start its activities;

**Taking into account** the final communiqué of the first annual meeting of the Ministers in charge of Defence and Security of the G5 Sahel Member States of 4 March 2016 in N'Djamena, which endorsed the

recommendation of the Defence and Security Committee on the equipment and implementation of the Platform;

**Taking into account** the final communiqué of the meeting of the Defence and Security Committee of the G5 Sahel Member States of 4 November 2016 in Nouakchott, recalling the financial requirements of the Platform;

**Reaffirming** the relevance of the decision regarding the establishment of cooperation between our States for the benefit of regional security and international peace and security;

**Drawing from** the provisions of the PCMS agreement stating that the Platform is not a transnational police transcending the authorities of the States Parties, but rather a regional coordination mechanism within a set framework which reconciles the imperatives of sovereignty imposed by national laws with the efficiency objectives pursued by the Heads of State of the Sahel region;

**Emphasizing** in this context the primacy of national institutions, and in particular the primordial role of National units of the Platform as horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms, and of national security services as the operational arms of this regional cooperation project;

**Conscious** that only homogeneous security structures, effective cooperation tools, advanced training and adequate means of communication and action are able to lead to fruitful regional cooperation against phenomena as threatening and complex as terrorism, transnational organised crime and illicit activities such as trafficking of drugs, firearms and persons, or smuggling of migrants;

**Bearing in mind** the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2295 of 29 June 2016, and in particular the recognition of the establishment by the G5 Sahel of a mechanism dedicated to enhancing regional security cooperation;

**Having heard** the speech delivered by the interim Permanent Secretary of the G5 Sahel, the presentation by the Defence and Security Expert, the intervention of the Regional Coordinator of the PCMS and the contributions of experts on cross-cutting threats facing the states of the region;

**Having followed** with interest the presentations on the tools proposed for the Platform by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to address these threats, including:

- Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITF) deployed through AIRCOP (the Airport Communication Project) funded by the EU and Canada;
- The Container Control Programme (CCP) of UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO);
- The Global Firearms Programme;
- The Global Programme against Money Laundering, the proceeds of crime and the financing of terrorism;
- The Sahel Judicial Cooperation Platform;
- The programme combatting human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

**After examinations and discussions, the experts:**

**Observe** that the tools for operationalizing the PCMS, as proposed by UNODC, have tactical, strategic and pedagogical benefits.

*From a tactical point of view*, these tools are likely to help States address the cross-cutting threats the Sahel region faces, and to respond to the security imperatives of:

- Combating trafficking by air, land and sea;
- Controlling the movements of terrorist groups, including foreign fighters and other associated entities;
- The fight against firearms trafficking and their diversion from licit channels;
- The fight against money laundering, the proceeds of crime and the financing of terrorism;
- The management of migrants and the fight against irregular migration, trafficking in persons and, in particular, of women and children.

*From a strategic point of view*, these tools aim to contribute to:

- The holistic treatment of the whole criminal chain – starting from the stage of conspiracy up to the execution of criminal activities – including the modus operandi (criminal analysis), the routes (border management), as well as the logistics and support structures used in the countries of origin, transit and destination or final execution;
- The establishment of synergies between the two components (police and military) in terms of law enforcement, information exchange and border management;
- The rooting of a new culture in the fight against transnational crime, based on intelligence-led policing;
- Strengthening the links between entities with similar vocations in each of the States Parties (drug control institutions, anti-terrorism units, etc.), through the creation of horizontal interpersonal relationships and the establishment of a climate of trust and of mutual assistance;

*From a pedagogical point of view*, these tools and the training sessions associated with them will contribute:

- To developing a reflex of international cooperation amongst those in charge of departments responsible for combating transnational crime in each of the Member States, by encouraging them to not only have an internal vision of security focused on their countries, but also an external one, turned towards the whole region;
- To strengthen the investigative capacities of these services through training on the most important offenses of transnational crime and on the most complex tools of international cooperation;

**Thank** the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) for its commitment to establishing the Sahelian Threat Analysis and Early Warning Centre (STAERC) in view of its role in detecting threats and offering guidance to the PCMS, and consequently to national security services on regional objectives related to prevention and law enforcement;

**Thank** UNOWAS, and in particular its liaison unit in Nouakchott, for its support to the G5 Sahel and the role played in project design and coordination between the various United Nations entities and the European Union, and in encouraging action towards the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS);

**Thank** UNODC for its efforts towards the institutionalization, operationalization and capacity building of the PMCS, both at regional and national levels.

**Welcome** the initiative of the G5 Sahel, UNOWAS and UNODC to include the prevention dimension of terrorism in their approach, through the association of the Cell for the Fight against Radicalization (CELLRAD) to this meeting and its participation in discussions on the operationalization of PCMS;

**Thank** all the other partners for their support to UNODC and the G5 Sahel including Denmark, Japan and the Netherlands;

**Take note** of the assistance proposed by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to support the G5 Sahel in the implementation of the PCMS through the provision of a secure communication system and the possibility of interconnection with Interpol's global databases;

**Propose:**

- The ratification by all States of international conventions on the fight against terrorism and organized crime and the harmonization of national laws with the provisions of these conventions, in particular those relating to specific investigation techniques and to joint investigation teams;
- Practical immersion training sessions for National Coordinators of the Platform with Interpol to disseminate knowledge about the tools used by the organization, including criminal databases and their secure communication system;
- Practical immersion training sessions for foreign investigators to familiarize them with specific investigative techniques including controlled deliveries; joint investigations, etc.;
- The involvement of Customs in the Platform at the regional and national level to enable them to take advantage of the services provided by the Container Control Program (CCP) of UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

**Recommend** that the judiciary be linked to this process of operationalization of the Platform due to its role in ensuring a legal framework for cross-border operations, the conduct of joint investigations and the implementation of cooperation tools, as detailed in the PCMS agreement, international conventions on combating terrorism and drug trafficking, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocols against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and weapons;

**Judge** that the mechanisms for the operationalization of the PCMS, as proposed by UNODC, and supported by UNOWAS have the advantage of allowing concerted action for common objectives within the framework of homogeneous structures, and in line with international standards regarding detection, investigation, prosecution, and the respect for human rights;

**Encourage** Member States to adopt these mechanisms and to facilitate their ownership by their competent services, in particular the national units of the platform, and the security services in charge of fighting against transnational crimes;

**Ask** the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel to submit the conclusions of this workshop and the recommendations resulting therefrom for validation at the next meetings of the Defence and Security Committee and the Ministers of Defence and Security.