



COMMISSION NATIONALE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME DU TOGO



DECLARATION OF ABIDJAN ON THE INTEGRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

We, National Institutions of Human Rights (NIHR) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), participants to the sub-regional Workshop on the 11 and 12 September 2019 in Abidjan on the theme: "Security challenges, the fight against terrorism and the protection of human rights in the ECOWAS region" with the technical and financial support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,

Noticing the negative impact of terrorism on human rights and fundamental liberties in the ECOWAS region;

Recognizing that the multiplication of terrorist attacks threatens seriously the territorial integrity, while compromising peace, social cohesion, security and socio-economic development of states;

Recognizing also that terrorism seriously undermines human rights, democracy and the state of law;

Recognizing that terrorism attacks the defended values by the United Nations Charter and in other international legal instruments;

Strongly preoccupied by serious violations of human rights, such as the violations of the right to life, the commission of acts of torture, of inhuman, cruel and degrading treatments, very often committed during the implementation of security policies and counter terrorism strategies in countries of the ECOWAS and the Sahel regions;

Leaning on Resolution 6/28 of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations and les recommendations of the Council on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties in the fight against terrorism of March 28th 2008,

Concerned to uphold the principle of proportionality in the fight against terrorism

Considering the compelling need for concerted and coordinated sub regional actions in order to urgently put in place policies, strategies and integrated mechanisms of human rights protection in the counter terrorism fight;

Formulate the following recommendations to Heads of States and the Government of the ECOWAS members States:

Handwritten signatures and initials in blue ink at the bottom of the document.

1. Take into account the respect of human rights in the conception and implementation of policies, programs, plans and security and legal strategies of the ECOWAS members States in the fight against terrorism;
2. Establish an effective joint citizen education policy for youth and children, as a sustainable response to their indoctrination and recruitment by terrorist groups
3. Dynamize and reinforce the synergy of action between the ECOWAS civil populations and the different defense and security units in charge of fighting against terrorism in our sub region;
4. Provide a concrete response to the thorny problem of ECOWAS youth decent and sustainable employment in order to avoid that their socio-economic vulnerability is used by terrorist groups which have enormous funds;
5. Support the urgent establishment of a formal framework of cooperation between all the ECOWAS NIHRs for the monitoring of human rights in terms of terrorism and counter terrorism;
6. Implement the strategy and counter terrorism plan of the ECOWAS in order to legally frame the fight against terrorism, to protect human dignity and to preserve innocent lives.
7. Take appropriate measures for a holistic care of victims and their families.

Made in Abidjan, the 12th of September 2019

Have signed

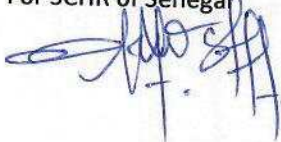
For CNDH of Côte d'Ivoire



For HRC of Sierra-Leone




For SCHR of Senegal



For INIDH of Guinea



For CNDH of Mali



For CNDH of Guinea-Bissau



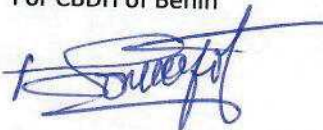
For CNDH Burkina Faso



For CNDHC of Cap-Vert



For CBDH of Benin



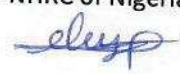
For NCHR of Niger



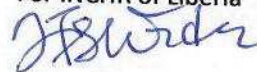
For CHRAJ of Ghana



For NHRC of Nigeria



For INCHR of Libéria



For CNDH of Togo

