



PRESS RELEASE

AU Appoints Special Representative in charge of Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

Special Representative to also head the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism

Addis Ababa, 7 October 2010: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Jean Ping, today appointed Mr. Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, from Mozambique, as his Special Representative in charge of Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and, concurrently, as the Director of the Algiers-based African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT).

Mr. Madeira, a career diplomat, has served as Ambassador of Mozambique in several African countries and as a diplomatic presidential advisor. He was also Minister in the President's Office for Parliamentary Affairs and subsequently Minister for Diplomatic Affairs. He has taken part in the efforts to promote peace in the Great Lakes region, as well as in the negotiations with the Lord's Resistance Army. Mr. Madeira has been the Special Envoy of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)/AU for the Comoros from 1999 to 2010.

This appointment is in line with the decision on the prevention and combating of terrorism adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Kampala, Uganda, from 25 to 27 July 2010. In that decision, the Assembly, *inter alia*, underscored the need for renewed efforts and increased mobilization to combat the scourge of terrorism, and requested the Commission to initiate appropriate measures to this end.

In his capacity as Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr. Madeira will coordinate efforts aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the relevant AU instruments, including the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, and its 2004 related Protocol, as well as the 2002 Plan of Action. His efforts will also focus on the mobilization of the international community in support of Africa's efforts towards combating terrorism.

As Director of the ACSRT, Mr. Madeira will work towards the enhancement of the capacity of the Centre, including its human resources, as well as of its coordinating role and overall contribution to the efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. In so doing, he will build on the results achieved so far.

Upon assumption of duty, Mr. Madeira will undertake consultations with Member States currently facing the threat of terrorism and other stakeholders, to identify practical measures through which the AU can better support their efforts.

Furthermore, and in line with the decision adopted in Kampala, the AU Commission will, in the coming weeks, submit a report to the Peace and Security Council on how best to strengthen the effectiveness of Africa's efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Mr. Francisco Madeira

Mr. Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira was born on 4 April 1954, in Beira, Mozambique. He is a holder of a Diploma in International Relations at the Center for Foreign Relations in Dar-es-Salaam and a Law Degree at the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo.

He joined the Mozambique diplomatic service in 1975, dealing mostly with African Affairs. From 1984 to 1989, he served as Mozambican Ambassador to several African countries. He was a member of the Government delegation to the peace negotiations with RENAMO, which resulted in the signing of the Rome General Peace Agreement for Mozambique. He held ministerial portfolios, having been, from 1995 to 1999, Minister in the President's Office for Parliamentary Affairs and, from 2000 to 2010, Minister in the President's Office for Diplomatic Affairs.

Mr. Madeira has contributed to several peace processes on the continent. In particular, he was the Special Representative of the Mozambican Government to the Great Lakes Region; member of former Presidents Julius Nyerere and Nelson Mandela facilitation teams in the Arusha Peace Negotiations on Burundi (1997 – 2000); Special Envoy of the AU Chairperson (former President Joachim Chissano) to Sao Tome and Principe, following the July 2003 coup d'Etat; member of the Southern Sudan Vice-President Riak Machar's facilitation team in the negotiations with the LRA; and OAU/AU Special Envoy for the Comoros (1999 to 2010).

He has been member of the National Parliament of Mozambique from January 2005 to December 2009, and from January 2010 to date.

About AU's contribution to the prevention and combating of terrorism

Over the past years, the African Union has taken several steps to combat the scourge of terrorism on the continent. In this respect, the AU has developed a number of instruments to facilitate coordination among its Member States, including the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (adopted in Algiers by the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of the African Unity), the 2002 Plan of Action for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, and the 2004 Protocol to the Algiers Convention. In July 2009, the AU Assembly, meeting in Sirte, Libya, adopted a decision on the prohibition of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups. Currently, the AU is developing an African Anti-Terrorism Model Law, to help Member States put in place the required legal framework to effectively address the threat of terrorism.

In line with the Protocol to the 1999 Algiers Convention, the AU established, in 2004, the African Centre for the Study and Research Centre on Terrorism. Based in Algiers, the Centre is mandated to facilitate the implementation of the relevant AU and international instruments on terrorism and cooperation among Member States.

In the discharge of its mandate, the Centre works closely with the national and regional focal points designated by AU Member States and the Regional Economic Communities, respectively. The Centre has initiated a number of steps to enhance the capacity of Member States, including through training and exchange of experiences. The Centre works closely with the United Nations

and other partners, including the European Union, and aims to establish itself as a Centre of Excellence in the fight against the scourge of terrorism.

At its 15th Ordinary Session held in Kampala, from 25 to 27 July 2010, the Assembly of the Union expressed serious concern over the worsening of the scourge of terrorism on the continent and the threat this situation poses to peace, security and stability in Africa. The Assembly requested Member States to work closely together towards the implementation of enhanced measures against terrorism.