Strengthening National Security and Global Stability: The Paramount Significance of Joining ICSANT in Combating Nuclear Terrorism

National Parliamentary Session on Nuclear Security

Banjul, The Gambia

31 July 2023

Hubert Foy
Director & Senior Research Scientist
African Center for Science and International Security
hfoy@africsis.org | +233554603605
Nonprofit, founded Oct 2012 in Ghana, scope Africa

Operating under Government partnership: Ghana and Cameroon

Organizational structure: Intl Advisers (Chair: Prof. Geoffrey Emi-Reynolds), Executive Director (Hubert Foy), Program Directors, Researchers, Expert Network, Admin Staff

Four main programs: Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation, WMD Nonproliferation and Disarmament, Global Warming and Security, Space and Satellite

Major activities include: research, analysis, policy development, training, outreach and awareness raising, collaborative projects, capacity building, technical support, evaluation and assessment, advocacy

The mission of the African Centre for Science and International Security (AFRICISIS) is twofold: 1) to help African states comply with international treaties and conventions in order to prevent the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and 2) to promote and develop the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear, biological, and chemical technologies. AFRICISIS is a Public Policy Research, Analysis, and Engagement Organization registered as a non-governmental organization in Ghana and incorporated in the U.S. in 2013.
AFRICSIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fostered regional peace and security
- Strategic engagement and collaboration
- Country specific guidance
- Policy-oriented technical studies
- Worked with parliamentarians and technical experts
- Advocated for the integration of robust nuclear safety and security measures
- Promoting nuclear security and non-proliferation in Africa
- Spearheading targeted stakeholder mapping studies and capacity-building initiatives
AFRICA SECURITY BACKGROUND
Growing and diverse array of violent militant Islamist groups active within different geographic concentrations in Africa.

African Centre for Strategic Studies published a review of violent events involving militant Islamist groups in Africa (https://tinyurl.com/m7d5uptvdu, Jan 2022).

The review found a near doubling in violence linked to militant Islamist groups in the Sahel in 2021 (from 1,180 to 2,005 events) highlights the rapidly escalating security threat in this region.

The figure illustrates the existence of a credible threat of a terrorist attack involving nuclear or radioactive material.

trend is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

8/3/2023
A 70-percent annual increase in violent events linked to militant Islamist groups in the Sahel propelled a new record of extremist violence in Africa in 2021.
The number of state-based conflicts in Africa declined slightly in 2021, but remains higher than a decade ago (https://tinyurl.com/2p85h53x, 2022).

Trends show an increase in non-state conflicts in Africa.

For many countries with conflicts, security measures are inadequate.

In other countries, including where terrorists operate, governance is patchy and regulation is weak.
NONPROFIT ROLE

- Capacity Building
- Research and Development
- Awareness Raising
- Advocacy and Lobbying
NONPROFIT RESEARCH

- Enhancing ICSANT universality.
- better understand evolving nature of nuclear and terrorist threats
- develop effective strategies to counter them.

- Identify potential gaps in ICSANT ratification process
  - cultural sensitivities and local realities
  - inform policy decisions to address them.
- Contribute to enhancing the universal adherence and effective implementation of ICSANT;
- Ultimately, promote global security and stability.
COMPLEMENTARY & GAP FILLING

- Collaboration improves adherence conditions.
- Nonprofits provide valuable expertise, research, and training.
- Governments provide political support, and access to relevant data and facilities.
- Recent examples of such collaborations include:
  - African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICISIS): Africa
  - Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA): Global
  - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Global
  - United States Department of State: Global
  - European Union (EU): Europe and beyond
  - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): Global
  - United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCTT): Global
  - International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL): Global
National Parliamentary Session in Trinidad and Tobago on Nuclear and Radiological Security

The primary focus of the session was to promote the ratification of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (ACPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) in Trinidad and Tobago.
2. INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

- Promote the universalization and use of relevant legally binding (e.g., Joint Convention of the Safety Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management – “Joint Convention”, Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency – “Assistance Convention”, and International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism – ICSANT) and non-legally binding (e.g., Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance) international instruments.
3. UN OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

The Office of Counter-Terrorism provides UN Member States with the necessary policy support and spread in-depth knowledge of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and wherever necessary, expedite delivery of technical assistance across 4 pillars.

Engaging parliamentarians

Through this Programme, UNOCT supports parliamentary action around the globe to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism building upon a “whole-of-society” approach. Our work is rooted in our common goal to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Civil society

Civil society makes unique and invaluable contributions to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. Through its Civil Society Engagement Strategy, UNOCT seeks to strengthen and more systematically engage civil society organizations at the global, regional, national and local levels with a focus on human rights, gender, and youth.
1. STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY

Seychelles holds opening ceremony for Exercise Cutlass Express 21

By U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa / U.S. Sixth Fleet Public Affairs
2. GLOBAL COOPERATION AND INTELLIGENCE SHARING
3. DETERRENCE AND DISINCENTIVE FOR TERRORISTS
4. LEGAL TOOLS FOR PROSECUTION
5. PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND FACILITIES
6. INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND NORM ADHERENCE

NTI Nuclear Security Index

**Building a framework for assurance, accountability, and action**

**Challenge**
Global leaders had no baseline for assessing the security of weaponsusable nuclear materials or nuclear facilities.

**Action**
With Economist Impact, NTI created the NTI Nuclear Security Index, a first-of-its-kind public benchmarking of nuclear security conditions around the world.

**Results**
After helping shape the agenda at the Nuclear Security Summits through 2016, the NTI Index continues to spur countries to enhance nuclear security and reduce highly enriched uranium (HEU) stocks.
AFRICSIS is a regional think tank and its work complement and fill gaps of effort by UN-Specialized Agencies, international partners and other governments.

Universalization of and effective implementation of ICSANT in Seychelles has security and development benefits.

ICSANT accession and effective implementation is important and relevant to all African countries including Seychelles irrespective of their nuclear science or technological development status.

The risk of terrorist attack or malicious acts involving nuclear materials or science and technology remains high.

This risk presents a serious threat to international peace and security and could reverse decades of development and democracy achieved in some countries.

Legislators are a key stakeholder in the ICSANT adherence and implementation process.
For questions, contact HUBERT FOY at hfoy@africsis.org
Also, Call/WhatsApp me at +233554603605/ +16786879643
Additional Information is available at https://africsis.org