



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19-23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK



Six Years After United Nations Security Council Resolution 2349: Examining the Implementation of Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies for Persons Associated with Boko Haram/JAS, ISWAP, and Other Terrorist Groups

21 June 2023, 08:30 – 10:00 AM

United Nations Secretariat, Conference Room 11 & Zoom (hybrid)

Draft Concept Note

Context and Background

On 31 March 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2349 on Peace and Security in Africa in response to the impending threat posed by Boko Haram, as well as the Islamic State of the Iraq and Levant (Da'esh) to the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin. Since its earliest beginnings in 2009, Boko Haram/Jama'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihad (JAS) has left a trail of destruction from North-East Nigeria to the surrounding areas of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. In 2015, they pledged allegiance to Da'esh forming the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP), before splintering into separate groups, Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP.

Over time Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, resulting in mass atrocities and violations of human rights, including the killing of over 350,000 persons and numerous instances of sexual and gender-based violence. Compounded by the impacts of climate change, humanitarian needs have been further aggravated, heightening concerns for the stabilization of the Lake Chad Basin region at large. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Security Council members unanimously adopted Resolution 2349 to strongly condemn terrorist attacks perpetrated by Boko

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Haram/JAS and ISWAP, while also calling upon governments of the Lake Chad Basin to address root causes and embolden regionally coordinated counter-terrorism efforts.

In correlation with other UN Security Council Resolutions, namely 1373 (2001) and 2178 (2014), as well as 2396 (2017), Resolution 2349 marked a pivotal juncture in the Security Council's guidance for the management of persons associated with terrorist groups to the governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, as well as a source of inspiration to similar terrorist contexts elsewhere. While urging governments in the Lake Chad Basin to develop and implement consistent policies for promoting defections from Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP, the resolution also urges that persons suspected of terrorism-related offenses be held accountable, including through prosecution, as appropriate, and the importance of conducting thorough assessment procedures. It also underlines the significance of developing and implementing rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, including disengagement programs. Together, these elements outline the initial requirements for Member States to develop and implement comprehensive, tailored, and coherent strategies to screen, prosecute, rehabilitate, and reintegrate (SPRR) persons associated with terrorist groups in line with international law through human rights-based and gender responsive approaches.

In addition to larger counter-terrorism efforts, Lake Chad Basin countries have made considerable strides in the SPRR of persons associated with Boko Haram since the initial adoption. For example, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) has provided tools to address the root causes of the emergence and expansion of Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP; the primary of which is the *Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* (RSS), which was adopted in August 2018. Drafted alongside the African Union with support from the United Nations, the RSS outlines tangible measures to prevent violent extremism and identify effective initiatives to stabilize the affected areas. A corresponding sub-strategy on *Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration*, was developed to further assist the governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria to implement the SPRR of persons associated with Boko Haram and ISWAP.

Six years after the adoption of Resolution 2349 (2017), military operations and the death of Boko Haram/JAS's leader Abubakar Shekau in May 2021, have led to thousands of fighters (some of them foreign terrorist fighters) and other persons associated with these groups, mostly women and children, to leave the terrorist groups or territory controlled by them. However, communities across the region struggle to restore their social fabric. Acceptance of the reintegration of persons associated with Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP is accompanied by concerns, also because the needs and rights of victims of terrorism and other human rights abuses are insufficiently addressed. Limited resources and capacities and a continuing humanitarian crisis challenge the Lake Chad Basin countries' ability to operationalize effective SPRR strategies in line with Resolution 2349, as well as the RSS and its SPRR sub-strategy.

It is within this context that the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in coordination with the LCBC, implemented the "Supporting Lake Chad Basin Countries to Develop and Implement Strategies for the SPRR of Boko Haram-Associated Persons" project from January

2020 to December 2022. As a result, Lake Chad Basin countries took tangible steps to advance the implementation of SPRR approaches, including through the adoption of a National SPRR Action Plan in Chad, the development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation between Niger and Nigeria, and the identification of key priority areas in relation to the operationalization of the SPRR sub-strategy at the national level like in Cameroon, as well as at the regional level.

As the Security Council marks the six-year anniversary of Resolution 2349 this year, the present side event seeks to understand the needs and priorities of the Lake Chad Basin in an effort to further identify avenues for continued support in the SPRR of persons associated with Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP.

Reflection Questions

The side event will gather representatives from Permanent Missions to the United Nations, including the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, as well as Members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the LCBC, and key actors from the United Nations system to reflect on the following questions:

- What challenges and needs do the governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, as well as regional entities, such as the LCBC, currently face in developing and implementing SPRR strategies either nationally or cross-border?
- How can Member States develop and implement consistent policies to promote defections from Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP, and facilitate the disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of those who leave the groups, while ensuring there is no impunity for those responsible for terrorist acts and international crimes, as well as upholding the rights of victims and addressing their needs?
- How can Member States and agencies within the United Nations system better meet the current challenges and needs facing the Lake Chad Basin in order to support the SPRR of persons associated with terrorist groups?

Objectives and Results

The overall goal for the side event is to strengthen the prospects for durable peace and justice in the Lake Chad Basin region, by promoting and facilitating coordination and collaboration among Member States vis-à-vis the challenges, as well as the successes, faced by governments of the Lake Chad Basin countries in the SPRR of persons associated with Boko Haram/JAS, ISWAP and other terrorist groups.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- To strengthen the knowledge and awareness of Member States on the situation facing Lake Chad Basin countries in the SPRR of persons associated with Boko Haram/JAS, ISWAP and other terrorist groups.
- To identify key areas of priority for future support among Member States and agencies of the United Nations to the Lake Chad Basin countries in the SPRR of persons associated with terrorist groups.

Date and venue

The side event will be held as part of UNOCT's Counter-Terrorism Week on **21 June 2023** at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from **08:30 to 10:00 AM**. The side event will take place in the **UN Secretariat, Conference Room 11** and **online on Zoom**.

Co-sponsors

The side event will be co-sponsored by the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, as well as the Lake Chad Basin Commission, together with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Contact persons

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- Mr. Marc Porret (porret@un.org), Africa Section, CTED
- Mr. Ulrich Garms (ulrich.garms@un.org), Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC

Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker(s)/Moderator(s)
08:30 – 09:15	Session 1: Introduction and Opening Remarks	<p>Mr. Vladimir Voronkov <i>Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office</i></p> <p>Ms. Ghada Waly <i>Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</i></p> <p>Ms. Natalia Gherman <i>Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate</i></p> <p>Major-General Babagana Monguno <i>National Security Adviser of Nigeria</i></p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Mamman Nuhu <i>Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Head of Mission of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) [Online]</i></p>

		<p>H.E. Ambassador Michel Tommo Monthe <i>Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the Republic of Cameroon</i></p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Abakar Mouctar <i>Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the Republic of Chad</i></p> <p>Mr. Ousman Samadou <i>Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Niger to the United Nations</i></p>
09:15 – 09:35	<p>Session 2: Opportunities and Challenges in the Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Persons Associated with Terrorist Groups</p>	<p>Ms. Larissa Ann Adameck <i>Chief of Unit, Global Programme on PRR, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism</i></p> <p>Mr. Marc Porret <i>Chief, Africa Section, UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate</i></p> <p>Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick <i>Programme Officer, Office of the Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UN Office on Drugs and Crime</i></p> <p>Moderator Ms. Racheal Lea Atley <i>Political Affairs Officer, UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate</i></p>
09:35 – 09:55	<p>Session 3: General Discussion and Interventions from the Floor</p>	<p>Moderator Mr. Masood Karimipour <i>Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UN Office on Drugs and Crime</i></p>
09:55 – 10:00	<p>Session 4: Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Mr. Raffi Gregorian <i>Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism</i></p>