

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 26 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, as President of the Security Council for March, China will convene a Security Council debate on Wednesday, 11 March 2020, on the theme “Peace and security in Africa: countering terrorism and extremism in Africa”. A concept note is attached for the benefit of Member States wishing to participate in the debate (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
People’s Republic of China to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

Concept note for the Security Council debate on the theme “Peace and security in Africa: countering terrorism and extremism in Africa”, to be held on 11 March 2020

I. Background

1. As President of the Security Council for March 2020, China intends to initiate a Security Council debate on 11 March.
2. As the continent with the greatest development potential, Africa suffers enormously from terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism (referred to as “violent extremism” hereinafter) and is becoming the front line in the global fight against terrorism. For years, terrorist groups including the Organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab have plotted terrorist attacks in Algeria, northern Mali, north-eastern Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Somalia and other areas, causing severe civilian casualties and displacement. The spillovers from the Libyan crisis are expanding. The massive flow of terrorists and extremists from the Syrian Arab Republic into Libya has led to an escalation of turbulence in the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin, which could further spread to southern Africa.
3. Terrorism is taking a heavy toll on the economic and social development of Africa. As a result of unemployment and inadequate education, young people are the most vulnerable to extremist ideologies, which further deepens social division. Combating terrorism and violent extremism has become a focus of attention for African Member States and the international community.
4. During the general debate at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, world leaders expressed strong political will to strengthen cooperation to prevent and fight terrorism. In July 2019, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and Kenya jointly held the African Regional High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism. African leaders agreed to build consensus, enhance experience-sharing and develop a comprehensive and inclusive counter-terrorism strategy.
5. African Member States have always attached high importance to combating terrorism and violent extremism. Since 1992, the African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity (OAU)) has adopted several initiatives on jointly fighting terrorist crime. In July 1997, OAU adopted the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. In September 2002, the African Union adopted the Algiers Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, deciding to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation in areas such as police and border control, legislative and judicial measures and exchange of information, and to establish the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism. In January 2015, the African Union Peace and Security Council endorsed the deployment of the Multinational Joint Task Force to combat Boko Haram. In April 2017, the African Union Peace and Security Council endorsed the deployment of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel to fight terrorism and transnational organized crime in the Sahel.

II. Security Council actions

6. The Security Council has been committed to international counter-terrorism cooperation, with a focus on helping Africa to combat terrorism more effectively. In February 2019, the Security Council held a debate on “Silencing the guns in Africa”. The Security Council adopted resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#), in which it welcomed the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by Year 2020. In March 2019, the Security Council adopted resolution [2461 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia in order to continue to support the Government of Somalia in strengthening capacity for preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism. In June 2019, the Security Council adopted resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and continuing to provide operational and logistical support to the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. In September 2019, the Security Council convened a ministerial briefing on the theme “Peace and security in Africa: partnership to strengthen regional peace and security”. In December 2019, the Security Council held a briefing on intercommunal violence and terrorism in West Africa and adopted a statement on mobilizing youth to silence the guns in Africa by 2020 ([S/PRST/2019/15](#)).

7. The Security Council should continue to draw the attention of Member States to counter terrorism and violent extremism in Africa. It should also use the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an opportunity to continue its comprehensive implementation of the Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions, and to step up support for Africa in its endeavours to eradicate the scourges of terrorism and violent extremism.

III. Focus

8. The debate is intended to provide a platform for dialogue among Member States on combating terrorism and violent extremism in Africa and, in view of the limited capacity of African Member States, to urge that greater international attention and input be directed at helping African countries to combat terrorism and violent extremism in an integrated manner so as to achieve peace and stability in Africa. Member States are encouraged to focus on the following topics:

(a) The serious threat of terrorism requires a joint response. As the most universal and authoritative intergovernmental organization, how can the United Nations play a better coordinating and leading role in the joint fight against terrorism and violent extremism in Africa?

(b) Underdevelopment is a key factor behind the spread of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa. What should be done to eliminate the breeding ground for terrorism and violent extremism through economic and social development?

(c) African countries have limited capacity, resources and means to combat terrorism and violent extremism. How should the United Nations and its Security Council help to strengthen capacity-building in African countries and give more support to regional and subregional organizations such as the African Union?

(d) Cutting off financing channels is effective in combating terrorist groups. In the light of the present situation in Africa, how can the international community help to destroy the financing mechanisms and channels of terrorist groups in African countries to more effectively combat terrorist financing activities?

(e) Foreign terrorist fighters move across borders, disseminate terrorist and extremist ideologies, target infrastructure in countries of origin, transit and destination, and aggravate regional conflicts. How can the security threats caused by the cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters be addressed by taking measures including strengthening border control and information exchange?

(f) The Internet must not become a paradise of freedom for terrorists. Efforts should be intensified to crack down on the usage of the Internet by terrorist groups to spread extremist ideologies and incite terrorist activities. How can the use of the Internet and social media by terrorists be combated effectively?

(g) Strengthening education is an important means to curb the spread of terrorist and extremist ideologies. Vocational education helps to promote the reintegration of terrorists and extremists to society through employment. What can be done to give education a bigger role in combating terrorism and violent extremism? In particular, how can vulnerable groups, including women and youth, be better empowered to avoid the influence of extremist ideas?

(h) The fight against terrorism and extremism in Africa requires a holistic approach and integrated policies in political, security, economic and ideological areas to address both the symptoms and the root causes. How can a comprehensive strategy for combating terrorism and extremism in Africa be formulated? How can the role of women and youth be better leveraged for that purpose?

IV. Format and outcome

9. African Member States are welcome to attend the debate and make statements. The debate will be held in the Security Council Chamber on 11 March 2020 and will be chaired by the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, Zhang Jun. The Council is expected to adopt a statement by the President.
