

TALKING POINTS

ON

**ALGERIA'S EFFORTS
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM**

PRESENTATION BY

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TO

THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning:

I would like to begin by thanking the Woodrow Wilson Center for inviting me to join you this morning and for the opportunity to address the very important issue of transnational terrorism and to present my country's essential contribution to the global efforts deployed to confront that challenge.

Seven years after the terrorist attacks against the United States and close to two decades since the initial murderous manifestations of that scourge in Algeria, transnational terrorism is politically and strategically defeated today. Yet, it remains defiant and continues to pose a constant and deadly menace to global peace and security, sparing no country in the world, however big or small. Today, it has become more than obvious that transnational terrorism is no longer somebody else's problem; this modern plague now affects the entire community of nations and ridding the planet of it is our shared responsibility.

While the events of September 11 became the catalyst for a unified reaction, much remains to be done to achieve a unified, single-minded front that is in sync with the reality of terrorism, allowing us to develop an efficient and effective strategy more in tune with the requirements, and weaknesses, of a more globalized world.

Today, that new reality highlights the interdependence among the nations of the world and underlines the urgent necessity of developing a renovated vision of collective security. Without a new perception of the threat and challenges posed by transnational terrorism and the determination to inject trust in international relations, strengthen regional and global cooperation, our dispersed

efforts would be doomed to failure. It is high time that the community of nations did away with contrasted readings of the threats to international peace and security and developed a new strategy based on a shared vision of the menaces and challenges facing our world.

This vision of collective security is at the heart of Algeria's strategy to counter transnational terrorism and forms the unshakable foundation of my country's solid, reliable and effective cooperation in that area with all its partners around the world.

In this respect, Algeria remains highly vigilant and maintains a constant and steadfast determination to pursue a proactive policy of fighting terrorism, genuinely and effectively cooperating with its partners and bringing to the table an experience that is unmatched in nature and earning the praise and recognition of high officials and specialists of other countries. The fundamental element driving Algeria's policy is its deep conviction that its own security cannot be separated from the security of its neighbors, its region, and the rest of the world.

Algeria maintains a clear, genuine and principled stance in its opposition to terrorism

- It has always and steadfastly argued for a single vision of terrorism, stressing that there is no good or bad terrorism, domestic or international terrorism, first- or second-degree terrorism, but only one terrorism that is transnational in nature;

- Terrorism takes advantage in endless ways of global systemic weaknesses and exploits prevailing regional and international disparities of view regarding terrorism;
- Algeria maintains that terrorism challenges and threatens the security of all nations;
- This scourge has repeatedly displayed a great capacity to adapt to change, recognizes no borders, strikes indiscriminately, and works and cooperates very closely with organized crime;
- Selective and discriminatory policies or responses to transnational terrorism have amply demonstrated their lack of effectiveness and must not be tolerated anymore.

The transnational nature of terrorism demands consistency and resolution of commitment from the world community

- Terrorism maintains a great nuisance capacity;
- It exploits globalization, takes advantage of weak borders and national legislations and the absence of efficient regulations;
- This threat is complex and diffuse and fighting it demands constant vigilance, permanent concertation and dialogue and, above all, strong, genuine, good-faith, and committed cooperation by the entire world community;

- Effective antiterrorist policy rests on clear objectives and principles;
- It clearly defines terrorist crimes and qualifies them as such in national legislations and international instruments;
- To be effective, international cooperation must include political, diplomatic, judicial and financial dimensions, as well as the pivotal elements of mutual assistance and extradition;
- Collaboration between intelligence services must be better reflected in the political and judicial areas.

Algeria cooperates fully with all its partners and shares with them unmatched antiterrorist insights and experience

- Deeply convinced of the necessity of maintaining a solid global antiterrorist front, my country contributes an experience learned from its confrontation of a blind and savage terrorism in the 1990s;
- It emerged stronger and consolidated peace through measures, such as the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation;
- It is respected and has regained its rightful place in the concert of nations;
- It cooperates with all its partners and provides unique insights on terrorist groups and unmatched valuable expertise;

- For close to two decades now, it has been strongly arguing for and advocating unrestrained, transparent and good-faith international antiterrorist cooperation in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations.

Our antiterrorist partnership with the United States is strong, effective and reliable

- Algeria's antiterrorist cooperation predates the attacks of September 11 and continues unabated to this day;
- US Government officials are unified in their praise of Algeria's "abiding and outstanding" cooperation and their recognition that it contributes a "unique perspective" to the fight against transnational terrorism and "valuable insights" on terrorist groups;
- Algeria and the United States share a strong interest in fighting terrorism and in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation, as underlined by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, during her visit to Algiers on September 8, 2008;
- Algeria's antiterrorist experts are respected professionals known for their engagement and their active and effective cooperation.

Algeria's bilateral cooperation is founded on constant dialogue and concertation and practical formulas

- Reflecting strong foreign policy principles, Algeria's cooperation gives top priority to dialogue and concertation on matters of regional and global security;

- Algeria has proposed to all its partners practical formulas of cooperation and operational procedures including political, diplomatic, judicial and financial dimensions;
- Its cooperative efforts focus on information and intelligence exchange, technical assistance, acquisition of operational means and, particularly, specific equipments;
- It has created with certain partners joint flexible contact groups entrusted with dealing comprehensively with all those dimensions.

We are firmly convinced that cooperation forms the cornerstone of an effective and efficient strategy for the prevention and combating of terrorism

- Algeria deeply believes that its own security and stability are part and parcel of those of its entire region;
- It is convinced that active antiterrorist cooperation is the best and only guarantee of regional peace, stability and prosperity;
- It maintains an active, productive and ongoing dialogue with its European partners, through COTER, the European antiterrorist mechanism, and is strongly developing its cooperation with NATO;
- My country has led successful efforts aiming to put the issue of terrorism on the agendas of organizations,

such as the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the African Union.

My country's exemplary antiterrorist cooperation in Africa symbolizes its firm commitment to continental security and stability

- Algeria's dynamic engagement and contribution in support of African cooperation and regional bodies has gained wide recognition;
- It has made repeated contribution and critical logistical support to African peace efforts;
- It has spearheaded continental cooperation and proposed a Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism that was adopted in July 1999;
- The Convention was followed by the adoption of two Plans of Action in 2002 and 2004, thereby demonstrating Africa's engagement and determination to contribute to a more coherent global antiterrorist action;
- Algeria is host to the African Union's Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, now a tool for Africa's contribution in implementing the world community's antiterrorist strategy;
- My country was one of the early supporters of important regional antiterrorist programs promoted by the United States, namely the Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative (TSCTI) and the Pan-Sahel Initiative (PSI).

- Algeria has contributed to the design and implementation of a structure within the African Union to coordinate the fight against terrorism;

It is imperative to reframe multilateral and international cooperation within a new vision of collective security

- My country continuously and strongly advocates the need for conducting cooperation in strict observance of international legality;
- It is convinced of the imperative necessity for all nations to demonstrate affirmed political will and strong commitment in support of the long-term fight against transnational terrorism;
- It believes that a shared vision of security threats and challenges and permanent concertation and coordination are required components of effective cooperation;
- Algeria is also convinced of the essential contribution of the United Nations in implementing a new collective security policy, thanks to the sustained support of member States and civil societies;
- Our call for a new multilateral antiterrorist strategy emphasizes the necessity of a revised and improved UN antiterrorist framework meeting the current requirements set for an effective international cooperation devoid of any subjectivity;

- Satisfying these requirements is the only way of building and sustaining strong and lasting mobilization against terrorism.

Conclusion

- It is now imperative for all the nations of the world, big and small, to engage in sustained and genuine efforts against any and all manifestations of extremism;
- Our common fight against the plague of transnational terrorism cannot be effective without concerted efforts and continuous, sustained, unrestrained, genuine and good-faith cooperation by all;
- If it is to have any lasting effects, antiterrorist strategy cannot and should not rely on the military component alone;
- To be successful and effective, this strategy needs to be renovated and creative and seeks to focus with equal strength, means, attention and urgency on development as well as security;
- The community of nations should engage significant efforts in fighting hunger and social exclusion and allocate major resources to anti-poverty programs in Africa and elsewhere because of the high impact of such issues on global security;
- Algeria is more than ever convinced that a new, creative, and resourceful approach to collective security, along with imaginative use of socio-economic programs, make for a constructive and realistic way to help

eradicate social and economic inequalities, exclusion,
and extremism.

Thank you.

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