

## Terrorism in Africa and the Efforts of Economic Community of West African States at Maintaining Peace within the Sub Region

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### ABSTRACT

Africa is confronted by myriads of challenges ranging from political, economic and security threats. In the area of security, terrorism activities and insurgency have assumed a worrisome state. This had far reaching consequences on the economies and politics of the African continent and West African sub region in particular. This paper attempted to explore pertinent issues relating to terrorism in Africa. More precisely the study examined the efforts of ECOWAS at maintaining peace in the West African sub region. The methodology was mainly qualitative as evidences were mainly drawn from review of extant literature. Thus content analysis was used through which basic findings and conclusions were arrived at. The paper found out that terrorism remains a global phenomenon and different states and international organizations have made frantic efforts towards dealing with its menace, but the desired outcome is yet to be achieved. The ECOWAS has put some Protocols and agreements in place but these are still faced with implementation setbacks. This therefore calls for synergy across the board to put machinery in place to deal with terrorists activities and ensure peace in the West African sub region.

Keywords: Terrorism, Africa, Economic Community of West African States. Peace, West African Sub Region

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### INTRODUCTION

Terrorism has been a major challenge to different African governments in recent times. This has given rise to worrisome problem of insecurity within the West African sub region. With recourse to the West African sub region the activities of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) has led to loss of lives and properties especially in parts of Nigeria, Cameroon, Republic of Niger and Chad. Some of these terrorist activities include bombing, suicide bomb attacks, sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens, burning of police stations, churches, kidnapping of school girls and women, etc. Kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and political crises, murder, destruction of oil facilities by militants alongside the attacks carried out by Fulani Herdsmen on some communities in the Northern and Southern Nigeria have been another major insecurity challenge facing the sub

region. Nigeria is a major victim in these terrorists' activities in the sub region; and has been included among one of the terrorist countries of the world. Many lives and properties have been lost and a large number of citizens rendered homeless. Families have lost their loved ones. Many women are now widows. Children become orphans with no hope of the future as they have been condemned to spend the rest of their lives in IDP camps. This has implications for national development.

Available data on the level and dimensions of terrorism in Africa reveals an increase over time, which constitutes serious threat to lives and properties, hinders economic activities and discourages local and foreign investors, all of which stifles and retards socio-economic development within the sub

region. This rising wave of terrorism has not abated but has assumed a dangerous dimension which is threatening the corporate existence of several countries in the West African sub region.

Governments of the various affected West African countries have made frantic efforts to tackle these challenges posed by terrorism in the sub region with intent

to putting an end to it but the rate of insurgency and insecurity is still alarming. No doubt this scenario gives serious for concern. It is incumbent on the above, that this paper seeks examine the pertinent issue of terrorism in Africa and efforts of Economic Community of West African States at maintaining peace within the sub region.

#### STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Terrorism is an evil wind that blows no one any good. Using Nigeria as a microcosm of the macrocosmic cases of terrorism in Africa, one easily recalls the incidences of June 2011 bombing of the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters as well as September bombing of United Nations building in Abuja, seen by many as a daring assault not only on the nation's intelligence and security apparatus but as pointer to the fact that no one is safe. Across the West African sub region and the entire African continent myriads of incidences of terrorism abound; boko haram in the North eastern Nigeria, Chad,

Republic of Niger, Cameroon and Chad. There are also Islamic militias in Mali; Al Shabab in Kenya and several other micro insurgency groups meting out violence on innocent citizens. Bearing in mind that the efforts of the various countries concerned in dealing with these threats have not yielded the required outcome; it is not in doubt that there is need for unified action to bolster collective security within the sub region. This is why this paper examines terrorism in Africa and efforts of Economic Community of West African States at maintaining peace within the sub region.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This paper examines terrorism in Africa and efforts of Economic Community of West African States at maintaining peace within the sub region. Pursuant to this objective, the paper will aim at the following;

a) To review pertinent conceptual and definitional issues that will aid proper understanding of the subject matter;

b) To interrogate the need for a comprehensive approach towards the phenomenon of terrorism

c) To appraise the efforts of ECOWAS in dealing with terrorist activities for purpose of maintaining peace in the sub region, and

d) To make recommendations on how best to solve the problems posed by terrorism in West African sub region.

#### REVIEW OF CONCEPTUAL AND DEFINITIONAL ISSUES ON TERRORISM

The world of the 21st century in which we are today, is more precarious, unpredictable and more dangerous than at any time in the history of mankind. Terrorism has become pervasive and its effects are felt all over the world, with no nation being immune from acts of terrorism. While the problem posed by terrorism has been recognized globally, the international community has not

necessarily agreed about the nature of terrorism. According to [1], the word terrorism is politically and emotionally charged, and this greatly compounds the difficulty of arriving at an exact meaning.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the United Nations attempted to define the term, but failed to reach a consensus mainly due to the differences of opinion between

member states about the use of violence in the context of conflicts over national liberation and self-determination. For example in the 1980s, the American CIA attempted to overthrow President Fidel Castro of Cuba. Still in the 1980s, it attempted to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Also, on many occasions, America used right-wing elements in various countries to illegally kill a lot of people. In Angola, the US actively supported the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (in Portuguese: União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola) (UNITA) rebels against the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola Party (in Portuguese: Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola - Partido do Trabalho) (MPLA) and it was defeated [2].

On the other hand, many African, Arab and East European countries supported the liberation movements that fought against apartheid regime in South Africa, the white minority government in Rhodesia (Now Zimbabwe) and the Portuguese colonial administration in Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe. Some also supported the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in its struggle for self determination. It is on account of these contradictions that some have observed that 'one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter', remains a common perspective on the definitional problem of terrorism. Foreign relations even indicate that though most people can recognize terrorism when they see it, experts have had difficulty coming up with a universally accepted definition.

Studies conducted by [3] found that there are over 1000 definitions of terrorism. The US Terrorist Research Centre equally admits that terrorism 'by nature is difficult to define'. The following definitions are provided by various experts in the field:

According to [4], Terrorism is the unlawful use or threat of violence against

persons or property to further political or social objectives. It is usually intended to intimidate or coerce a government, individual or groups, to modify their behaviour or politics. [5] defined Terrorism as the premeditated, deliberate, systematic murder, mayhem, and threatening of the innocent to create fear and intimidation in order to gain a political or tactical advantage, usually to influence an audience. The United Nations (1994) in an attempt to define Terrorism described it as 'criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular person for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them.'

Terrorism is a political violence in an asymmetrical conflict that is designed to induce terror and psychic fear (sometimes indiscriminate) through the violent victimization and destruction of noncombatant targets (sometimes iconic symbols). Such acts are meant to send a message from an illicit clandestine organisation. The purpose of terrorism is to exploit the media in order to achieve maximum attainable publicity as an amplifying force multiplier in order to influence the targeted audience(s) in order to reach short and midterm political goals and/or desired long term end states (Center for European Security Studies, 1998).

United Kingdom Terrorist Act (2000) saw Terrorism as the use or threat of action . . . designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public . . . for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. United States Federal Statute under United States Code, Title 18, Section 2331 (18 USC 2331) view Terrorism as violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that . . . appear to be intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by

intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping.

Israeli's Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance No. 33 see a terrorist organisation as "a body of persons resorting in its activities to acts of violence calculated to cause death or injury to a person or to threats of such acts of violence." Paul Pillar, a former CIA deputy Chief of the Counterterrorism gives the following attributes of terrorism:

- It is premeditated and planned in advance, rather than an impulsive act of rage,
- It is political-not criminal, like the violence that groups such as the Mafia use to get money, but designed to change the existing political order,
- It is aimed at civilians-not military targets or combat-ready troops,
- It is carried out by sub-national groups not by the army of country.

Terrorism is a global phenomenon. Although terrorism has haunted the world for a long time, it was the terrorist attack directed on the United States of America on September 11, 2001 that brought significant global attention to the phenomenon. This was as a result of extent of damage, which accompanied the attack on the world's super power that was hitherto thought to be invincible, the huge number of lives lost and different foreign nationals involved. Following the events of September 11, 2001, many states that hitherto did not consider terrorism as a serious social and political issue within their territory, felt obliged to support the global movement to eliminate the menace. No doubt countries have recognised that the phenomenon of terrorism poses serious challenges to their foreign policies.

The advent of globalisation as a new world order (or disorder) and, in particular the 9/11 attacks in the US have also brought the world closer to a near unanimous view of terrorism in the spirit and character of the new global village. Terrorism has now assumed international or global stature and has, more or less, been transformed into a non-state problem, with the actors pitted against state or states in pursuing agendas that transcend national boundaries.

African leaders under the auspices of the African Union (AU) have also attempted to define terrorism from the African context. The African Union (AU), at its Algiers meeting in 1999, defined terrorism as:

- a. any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of a state party and which may endanger the life, physical integrity or freedom of, or cause serious injury or death to, any person, any member or group of persons or causes or may cause damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage and is calculated or intended to:
  - i. intimidate, put fear, force, coerce or induce any government, body, institution, the general public or any segment thereof, to do or abstain from doing any act, or to adopt or abandon a particular standpoint or act according to certain principles; or
  - ii. disrupt any public service, the delivery of any essential service to the public or create a public emergency; or
  - iii. any promotion, sponsoring, contribution to, command, aid, incitement, encouragement, attempts, threats, conspiracy, organising or procurement of any person, with the intent to commit any act referred to in paragraph (a) (i)-(iii).

The 1999 Algiers Convention significantly expanded the 1992 OAU Heads of State and Government Declaration against Extremism and the Code of Conduct for Inter-African Relations adopted at the 30th Ordinary Assembly in Tunis in 1994, which rejected fanaticism and all forms of extremism. The OAU definition of terrorism provides a useful guide, even though other definitions are also not ruled out here.

Most countries have tended to rely on the definition provided by United Nations as a working definition. On December 17, 1996, the nonbinding United Nations Declaration to supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to the UN General Assembly Resolution 51/210, condemned terrorist activities in the following terms:

1. The States Members of the United Nations solemnly reaffirm their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whosoever committed, including those that jeopardize friendly relations among States and peoples and threaten the territorial integrity and security of States.
2. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm that acts, methods and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations; they declare that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations;
3. Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a

political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them.

In 2004, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566 condemned terrorist acts as: criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitute offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature.

It is evident that the definitions of terrorism are limitless. There are perhaps as many definitions as there scholars working on the evolving phenomenon of terrorism. The definition provided by [6] is that terrorism is the 'indiscriminate use of different levels of violence to strike fear on an opponent in an adversarial relationship in order to tailor the action of the latter towards a desired goal'. [7] also agrees with the point that terrorists are groups of individuals involved in creating a state of fear, which gives rise to the very essence of terrorism. Though some have argued that terrorism is essentially the weapon of the weak against the strong, it is evident that both the powerful and the weak, as well as both government and non-governmental actors within the society have applied terrorism at some point in time. Such terrorist acts may include bombing of selected places, hostage taking, hijacking of planes, assassinations, and many others.

It has been noted that different groups such as freedom fighters, nationalists,

and ethnic groups, insurgents and even national armed forces and other state security agents, have applied some terrorist tactics at one time or the other. It is on account of these contradictions that some observers have argued that 'one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.' Most terrorists will accept this view because they do not see their acts as evil but fighting for what they believe in by using whatever means possible. What is clear is that the UN General Assembly as noted above condemns all acts of terrorism and described them as criminal and unjustifiable.

In discussing the concept and nature of global terrorism, it is important to highlight changes that have taken place over the years. The main changes and continuities in terrorist tactics between the 20th and 21st centuries include:

- a) assassinations of political leaders has been used throughout the period
- b) hostage taking has remained a constant tactic deployed by terrorist groups

**THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TOWARDS THE PHENOMENON OF TERRORISM**  
In order to make the above-described strategy credible (in terms of applying a unified system of norms) and efficient at the same time, the phenomenon of terrorism has to be dealt with at all levels: legal, political, social, economic and cultural. The approach has to be inclusive, i.e. it must not artificially separate the previously mentioned aspects of the terrorist threat.

As far as the legal level is concerned, international criminal jurisdiction should be established for the crime of terrorism in addition to strengthening the procedures of domestic jurisdiction. Generally, terrorism should be situated within the domain of universal jurisdiction. The states parties to the Rome Statute [8] should

- c) bombing political and military targets has been used throughout
- d) suicide bombings have emerged as a strategy during the 20th century
- e) targeting civilians is more common now than it was in the past
- f) terrorism is more 'global' now than previously, due to developments in technology and communications
- g) terrorist groups now have access to biological weapons
- h) terrorist groups now have interest in acquiring nuclear weapons
- i) targets are now often chosen because of their symbolic significance (eg the World Trade Centre, UN building in Abuja and Police Headquarters in Abuja)
- j) the development of technology, particularly aviation technology, has led to new forms of terrorist attacks.

consider incorporating the prosecution of terrorist acts into the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) - a step which is not necessarily detrimental to national sovereignty insofar as the ICC's jurisdiction is defined on the basis of complementary with national jurisdiction [9]. All United Nations member states that are seriously committed to combating terrorism should consider joining the International Criminal Court to document their unequivocal commitment to the international rule of law and to the principle of personal accountability (without which any counter-terrorist strategy lacks efficiency). By this step, the states having proclaimed a "global war on terror" [10] would be particularly able to demonstrate the credibility of their efforts.

As regards the political, social and economic levels, the root causes of terrorism - whether those lie in injustice, oppression, foreign occupation, colonial subjugation, denial of basic human rights - have to be clearly identified before they can be eradicated, i.e. before a meaningful counter-terrorist strategy can be developed. Turning a blind eye to the motives for terrorist acts which are, whether directly or indirectly, related to these causes, amounts to dangerous self-betrayal.

Dealing with the symptoms can only be seen as an emergency measure, but it will never be sufficient to prevent terrorist acts in the future. If one addresses the symptoms alone, the "war on terrorism" will never end. It has been proven in the course of the Middle East confrontation as well as through the conflicts in South-East Asia that a mere security approach will inevitably fail [11]. A comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism must go beyond mere police, military, or intelligence measures, even though they may be effective in particular cases and under specific circumstances. Equal

importance has to be given to the search for the motives behind terrorist acts. Such an effort will enable a state to specifically address the causes of grievances and frustrations that may drive people to engage in terrorist violence which by the perpetrators as well as by the sympathizing local population is often seen as legitimate resistance and part of a strategy of national liberation [12].

Furthermore, as regards the cultural level, the Western paradigm of the "clash of civilizations" must not become a self-fulfilling prophecy [13]. Comprehensive efforts will have to be undertaken to promote a dialogue especially between the Western and Muslim worlds to prevent the hardening of stereotypes that in turn may trigger more violent action. The escalation of the crisis between the Arab and Muslim world on the one hand and the West on the other in the course of the events of 2003 is an ominous sign of things to come - unless enlightened people on both sides are courageous enough to identify the root causes of the increasing cultural and political alienation between the two communities.

#### ECOWAS EFFORTS IN COMBATING TERRORISM AND MAINTAINING PEACE IN WEST AFRICAN SUB REGION

At its inception in 1975, the ECOWAS Treaty was intended to pursue the economic interests of the member states. The maintenance of regional peace, stability and security through the promotion and strengthening of good neighbourliness was incorporated to the Revised Treaty of ECOWAS in 1993 as one of the fundamental principles outlined in Article (4). However, due to the regional instability in the ECOWAS region, member States adopted the Protocol on Non-Aggression in 1978. The Protocol was enriched and in May 1981, ECOWAS member States signed the Protocol on Mutual Assistance Defense for mutual assistance in defense against any armed threat or aggression on a member State. The Defense Committee and Council as well as the Allied Armed Force of the

Community were both created to serve the stated purpose. With growing tensions in the West African region, a coalition of Anglophone member States decided to establish a multilateral armed force in 1990 to maintain peace and security, known as the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group. The Monitoring Group intervened in, among others, Liberia in 1990, Sierra Leone in 1997 and in Guinea-Bissau in 1999.

The Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace Keeping and Security was adopted in December 1999 and is arguably the most comprehensive protocol relating to peace and security in the region. It addresses peacekeeping, humanitarian support and peace building

capabilities as well as the issue of cross border crime. Moreover, ECOWAS member States also adopted the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance in 2001 as an instrument to promote peace and security in West Africa.

In this context, ECOWAS has established institutions and programmes in order to realize the commitments of the above mentioned protocols, including: The Mediation and Security Council, Early Warning and Response Network, ECOWAS Standby Force, the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework and the ECOWAS and Civil Society.

Before delving into the efforts of ECOWAS at maintaining peace in the West African sub region in relation to fighting terrorism, note must be taking that many international, regional, and local efforts have been made to combat terrorism in West Africa and other climes. Most of these efforts have been in the form of resolutions, conventions, treaties and other forms of agreements. At the global level is the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) that established the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). It was an effort to stop terrorism in all of its forms. UN Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005) is designed to improve border security and encourage member countries to submit updates to the CTC. Unfortunately, West African countries have had partial compliance as observed in the UNSCR 1624 reports. Other policies to stop terrorism predate the UN resolutions but have proven equally ineffective.

The then Organization of African Unity (OAU) first addressed terrorism in its 1992 Dakar declaration, and its 1999 Algiers agreement determined to “eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.” At the national level, many West African states have legislated anti terrorist acts. These include: (a). Sierra Leone 1861 Malicious Damage Act; (b).Niger Titre VI du Terrorisme et du

Financement du Terrorisme (2003); (c). Ghana Anti-Terrorism Bill (2005) and the Anti-Money Laundering Bill (2007); (d).Senegal Loi Modifiant le Code de procedure Penale et Relative à la lutte Contre les Actes de Terrorisme (2007); (e). Gambia Anti-Terrorism Act (amended) 2008 and the Money Laundering Act (2003); (f). Nigeria Counter-Terrorism Bill 2010 and the Anti-Money Laundering Bill 2004.

Besides these national legislations, some West African regional groups under the auspices of ECOWAS have taken some actions to curb terrorism. In this category, the West African Police Chiefs Corporation, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, and ‘ECOWAS’ Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa as well as its Committee of Chiefs of Security Service stand prominently. Collectively, on 27 and 28 February 2013, the new ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) at its 66th ordinary session in Yamoussoukro, Cote d’Ivoire. The West African leaders have vowed to leave no stone unturned in their fight against terrorism. This vow was embodied in the Political Declaration on a Common Position against Terrorism, which included a Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Implementation Plan. The Strategy is the result of an inclusive process that began in 2009 and has involved national, regional and international experts, civil society and media organizations. The principal purpose of the Declaration and Strategy is to prevent and eradicate terrorism and related criminal acts in West Africa, with a view to creating conditions conducive to sound economic development and ensuring the wellbeing of all ECOWAS citizens. The plans also seek to give effect to regional, continental and international counter-terrorism instruments and to provide a common operational framework for action [14].

At a time of rising terrorist activities in West Africa, the Declaration is a historic achievement in ECOWAS efforts to combat terrorism. Military coups, internecine conflicts, mercenary activities and authoritarian regimes have exposed West Africans to different incarnations of terrorism. The contemporary intensification of terrorist attacks in the region, particularly following the escalation of the Niger-Delta conflict in 2006 and the resurgence of Boko Haram in 2009, as well as the occupation of northern Mali by terrorist groups in 2012, have alarmed not only West African countries but also the broader international community. These developments have exposed the fragility of West African states and the profound threat that terrorism poses to peace, stability, development and territorial integrity [15].

The key question is whether the Declaration and Strategy can solve the complicated problem of terrorism in West Africa, which is often intertwined with transnational criminality. The effectiveness of any such instrument depends on its implementation. To achieve results, systematic actions are needed to enforce the Strategy. The commitment of ECOWAS member states, other regional actors and international partners to the practical translation of the Strategy's provisions will be key to the Strategy's success. What does the Strategy intend to bring about one might ask? Firstly, it is important to note that although ECOWAS had long espoused the need to prevent and combat terrorism, the Declaration and Strategy constitute the first major ECOWAS policy framework documents adopted specifically to deal with the problem. The Declaration provides broad policy areas, including norms and principles that are shared by all member states and enshrined in relevant regional, continental and international legal regimes. For example, member states unequivocally condemn terrorism and related offences such as incitement to and financing of terrorism.

It also establishes the principle that a terrorist attack in one member state constitutes an attack on all. This clause in effect, embodies the principle of collective security.

Secondly, the Strategy is inspired by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to provide comprehensive steps that states must take individually and collectively to address the threat of terrorism. It rests on three main pillars: prevent, pursue and reconstruct (PPR). The most important pillar is the first, which requires member states to undertake a wide range of activities to prevent terrorism. These include ratifying and effectively implementing the relevant legal regimes, eliminating conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, enhancing early warning and operational intelligence, preventing extremism and radicalization, and promoting democratic practices and the protection of human rights. The Pursue pillar is meant to enable member states to undertake rapid, timely and effective responses to terrorism when it occurs. Some of the main objectives are to investigate, intercept and disrupt terrorists planning, networks and activities; promote a rule-based or criminal justice approach that seeks to bring terrorist leaders and their supporters to justice; and cut off terrorists funding and access to equipment, finances, training etc. The third pillar deals with the aftermath of a terrorist act and is aimed at rebuilding society and enabling the state to heal social wounds caused by terrorism and counterterrorism activities. This strategy assumes or blatantly ignores giving some prominence the weapons terrorists rely on the most and that already kill vast number of West Africans every year: small weapons — the pistols, land mines, assault rifles and handheld grenade and rocket launchers that flood the world. It is this obvious omission that necessitates a re-examination of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, in the search for a terror free West Africa. The re-examination is timely because small arms

and light weapons have played a major role in exacerbating armed violence and crimes in the sub-region. Therefore, any efforts aimed at abetting these challenges

will be a step in the right direction in the fight against terrorism and maintaining peace in the West African sub region.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the various issues reviewed in this paper the following recommendations are made:

a) The ECOWAS should synergize with the governments of the member states to evolve institutional mechanisms that will have the legal capacity to implement its relevant Protocols aimed at checkmating terrorism and ensuring peace in the sub region.

realize the fight against terrorism anywhere in the world especially in the West African sub region.

b) There is need for both the ECOWAS and UNO to work hand in hand to

c) The various countries of West Africa need to work together in ensuring effective security across their common borders. This will help to reduce the consequences of the present porous nature of West African borders and restrict free movement of suspected terrorists.

#### CONCLUSION

This paper has so far examined terrorism in Africa and efforts of Economic Community of West African States at maintaining peace within the sub region. It has been established that there is hardly any region of the world that is spared of the phenomenon of trans-border crimes and terrorism. However, the peculiarity of West African socio-economic problems such as poverty and inequality, hunger, unemployment and corruption presents more severe dimension of transnational criminal activities worsened by prevalence of terrorist activities. There are speculations that the Boko Haram insurgent group in Nigeria has connections with the Al' Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Al'Shabaab in Somalia and operational bases in Niger Republic, Republic of Chad and Cameroon. This signifies connections with other terrorist's organization and the

aim is to create a coordinated jihadist movement across West Africa. The porosity of the West African borders can be identified as an aiding factor of the activities of these insurgencies groups and criminal networks across the region. Finally, the paper identified a number of efforts by ECOWAS in ameliorating terrorists' activities in the sub region. There are a number of Protocols to serve this purpose. However, the expected outcome in terms of maintenance of peace is yet to be realized due to problems inherent in the implementation of the protocol. There is need for institutional mechanism for proper implementation and adequate training of security agencies and equipping them to curb subversions and putting machinery in place for proper checking and detection of terrorist activities.

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