Africa Security Forum 2017

“Casablanca Meetings”

THE AFRICAN COOPERATION CHALLENGES ON TERRORISM, RADICALIZATION AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

October 8th - 9th & 10th, 2017
Casablanca
The Atlantis Center for Geostrategic Research and Studies invites you to LASH participate in to the next session of the Africa Security Forum from the 8th to the -10th of October 2017 in Casablanca, Morocco. Where discussions will feature the forum will explore the consequences cyberspace has on, security, stability and levels of peace within Africa. The purpose of the Atlantis Center is to contribute to the ongoing international discourse with reflection to security problems on the African continent, a mission that culminates annually at the Casablanca sessions of the Africa Security Forum.

In its most recent meeting the African Security Forum (ASF) brought together 300 international participants from both private and institutional sectors. Moreover, with over 30 transnational and multicultural participants the forum focused on Border Security, Financial Flows and Digital Identity. The 2017 edition of the ASF will bring together more than 400 participants from 45 different African nations to discuss the Inter-African cooperation in the face of Terrorism, Radicalization and Transnational Crime, focusing on the following topics:

• Theme 1: Terrorism, cyberspace, and new vectors of radicalization
• Theme 2: The new challenges of migration and transnational criminality
• Theme 3: The Inter-African cooperation and its new challenges

For the 2017 ASF sessions:
This year’s forum will focus on the development of cyberspace and how cyberspace is being used political, social and religious radicalization. Furthermore, the forum will assess how new methods can be a serious threat to the security of all Africans.

Following, we will deal the second theme will examine how new developments in cyberspace affect migration flows, economic security and social consequences, and what would be the best ways to evaluate potential opportunities and threats that cyberspace could create among African countries.

Finally, we will examine pan-African cooperation, the preparedness of relevant entities to support cooperation on cyberspace security, sustainable actions and practical options for mechanisms and programs at sub-regional levels.

The Africa Security Forum, by adopting a broad and comprehensive approach in an open engagement on these problems, hopes to contribute meaningfully in finding innovative answers for our partners and colleagues across the African continent.
Conference Overview:

400 thinkers, stakeholders, decision makers and specialists
October 2017, 8th 9th & 10th
Hyatt Regency, Casablanca, Morocco

Main Themes:
The African Cooperation Challenges on Terrorism, Radicalization and Transnational Crime.

Thème 1: Terrorism, cyberspace, and new vectors of radicalization

Thème 2: The new challenges of migration and transnational criminality

Thème 3: The Inter-African cooperation and its new challenges
The Atlantis Center (www.atlantis-center.org) is dedicated to an independent political and intellectual approach to geostrategic research and studies, focused on understanding and analyzing emerging issues impacting on our shared modern world. Atlantis Center headquarters are in Casablanca, Morocco.

The mission set by the Center is to bring together academic teams, researchers and specialists known and recognized for their expertise by publications of analytic and research documents. The Center also seeks to develop actionable proposals and actively participate in the ongoing global discourse on social, economic and geostrategic topics from security, stability, and safety perspectives, the Center’s core areas of expertise.

The Center’s philosophy of action is to thoughtfully engage by offering a creative space for sharing ideas, concepts and/or proposals. This endeavor is to be undertaken in accordance with the best practices of the international community, guided by a commitment to the highest ethical standards.

Driss Benomar
Executive Chairman
The International Forum on Technology and Security (FITS) is a nonprofit association founded on January 16th, 2013. Its origin stems from the forum Technology Against Crime, held in July, 2013 in Lyon, the world headquarters of Interpol, which was chaired by Boon Hui Khoo, former president of Interpol. Alain Juillet, President of the Companies Security Directors Club, is the new Chairman of FITS.

FITS aims to contribute to the international debate on technology issues, security and crime but also to promote the development of technological innovations related to safety in compliance with international standards.

FITS organizes many thematic international forums bringing together decision makers of security issues at the strategic level and at operational level, relevant industries, may they be specialists or generalists but always related to this sector, experts, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary.
With the tremendous economic and demographic development anticipated over the next 30 years, Africa is becoming the focus of a variety of interests, both benign and challenging. The Forum engages to address the impact of these emerging interests, from multinational industrial groups to competitive political interests and criminal organizations seeking opportunities to extend influence or penetrate markets. All agree that growth will come to Africa but that growth means challenges and opportunities that are likely to be far from uniformly responsive to governance, policy and planning. More likely, Africa will be a continental mosaic of neighbors, from the very rich countries to the very poor, each facing consequences of their ability to face the challenges of the next 30 years, whether it be in terms measured by living standards, popular sentiment or economic capacity.

In our complex and changing environment, we face violence intended to disrupt social peace and attack the attachments people feel for each other and the spaces they inhabit. Our exposure to this terrorism is becoming more of a burden in our daily lives, undermining our sense of security. Its practitioners exploit extreme poverty and illiteracy as opportunity, as much as the failure or the lack of authority in certain states, or the rise in corruption that increases the gap between the richest and the poorest and strains the ties they would otherwise have to each other.

Our modern world seems more vulnerable than the traditional orders that preceded it. Exploiting groups inflict terrorism on their targets by weaponizing ideas, relying on questionable interpretations of history, nostalgia, or authority — offering the unknowing an illusion of relief cloaked in ideological or religious references — almost always to weaken social ties, destabilize zones or even entire regions.

With cyberspace, these zones and regions seem far less confined, while the weaponization of ideas seems far easier to proliferate. This makes an already difficult problem a bigger and broader challenge than ever before.

Some of this is familiar. The rise of radicalization is not a phenomenon that has suddenly emerged or is only inspired by religiously-inspired preachers or fanatics. But the continued rise of radicalization is real, and it spreads across many types of affinity and identity.

We often see that it is built on a number of common psychological, social and economic factors that nearly always must be taken into account, but too often after the fact of a watershed tragedy. We know that we can do better. These factors play a role in any effort to anticipate and prevent radicalization, when we try to engage “upstream” from the event of any individual’s radicalization.

This focus on the prevention of radicalization, while being well-founded, will clearly be affected by the sheer volume of flow of information and the speed of exchanges increasingly possible as routine tools and social connectivity spread in Africa’s expanding access to cyberspace.

We know that South-North migration flows start as displacements, sometimes from areas that are failing, but the failure to sustain ties to the land or the neighborhood can be psychological, social or economic. The individual decision to move from sustainment-poor areas to richer ones is not just about low-skilled labor, although this is certainly a factor.

Where whole areas are failing their inhabitants, the flow of migration can be significant and it can destabilize downstream areas, even if immigrants offer cheap labor to the countries that welcome them. The effect of climate change, for example, which we addressed in a previous ASF session, is a major factor in economic failures to sustain areas exposed to desertification, as one example. The failure of traditional fishing areas is another, as is civil war and social breakdown.
Experience shows that migrants present an opportunity if their hosts are able to anticipate their arrival, to support their transition and guide them to the best opportunities and, if properly engaged, help them avoid drifting into default affiliations that add burden and risk for their hosts, neighbors and new governments to manage.

The potential for burden and risk that strains the resources of people and states presents opportunities to criminal organizations, whose main advantage is their willingness to exploit uncertainty and policy weakness.

This is where criminal groups work to develop new illicit revenue and routes, sometimes expanding from older trade routes to smuggle high value contraband, such as drugs, cigarettes, arms, pharmaceuticals, and human beings across the African continent. Sometimes, they offer new links to relieve law enforcement constraints on other illicit routes, such as offering a new supply route to established demand centers. In cyberspace, such readiness to explore new adaptations to changing operating conditions is only further enabled.

Criminal organizations will establish operational bases in lawless areas and establish themselves in countries with inadequate state structures or state organs with limited reach. This preference for ungoverned or weakly governed areas is no less true in cyberspace.

Transnational crime, which is often a source of financing for terrorism, grows stronger where states do not or cannot build upon international cooperation mechanisms, such as ongoing exchanges of intelligence, regionally coordinated law enforcement; shared interdiction tools and regionally-mandated law enforcement action and response teams.

An inter-African cooperation policy driven by a commitment from regional leadership is an immensely powerful tool whose potential is awaiting sustainable development. An inter-African cooperation policy levels the playing field against a broad array of challenges and adversaries, and can help Africa take the lead in developing successful policies and mechanisms against all these challenges.

Africa needs to move to the forefront in the challenges presented by the emergence of risk and threat vectors in cyberspace, taking the initiative and designing policy that makes sense in an African context, without falling into a policy of compliance with international norms developed by others that too often leads to a passive approach to solving transnational cyberspace problems.

A proactive cyberspace policy approach gives Africa a full membership seat at the international table, and gives its member states and organizations the space to develop fully compliant programs that make sense and are effective locally. In order to meet this challenge, African countries must acquire, develop and rely on their own resources and make use all available modern techniques — many of which promise short term competitiveness without little or no delay.

In this context, cooperative approaches to security in cyberspace and on the ground will be present important milestones on the path to success. By developing opportunities that let African-based organizations, official and private, mobilize cooperatively, they can build upon existing opportunities to address threats on a sustainable basis that makes sense in an African regional context.

Meeting the challenge that cyberspace presents will involve a wide range of tools, skills and knowledge that are well within reach, whose value will only be amplified with effective policy — realized in the management of shared information, state of the art tools, joint programs for training and fully supported regional coordination across Africa.

Alain Juillet
Président
FITS

Driss Benomar
Executive Chairman
ATLANTIS
Participating countries:
Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Italy, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Central Africa, Republic Democratic of Congo, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Tanzania, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia.

Personalities invited:
Ministerial authorities, senior officials, researchers, academics and international experts, representatives of the private sector and innovative companies working in the fields covered ahead.

Conference format:
• Each session of two hours thirty minutes will be organized around three themes, followed by an open exchange with participants.

• All sessions will be led by a moderator, and jointly chaired by Atlantis Center and FITS.

• Discussions will be open to invited press.
**PROGRAMME**

**Sunday, 8 October 2017**

19 : 30 – 21 : 30 : Cocktail Reception

**Lundi 9 octobre 2017**

8 : 30 – 9 : 00 : Welcoming participants
9 : 00 – 9 : 45 : Official opening Session

09 : 45 – 10 : 00 : Coffee Break
10 : 00 – 12 : 30 – Theme 1 – **Terrorism, cyberspace, and new vectors of radicalization**
   • Cyberspace: A modern-day and faster vector for radicalization;
   • Means and methods of terrorists and criminal organizations in cyberspace;
   • Cyberspace: A new law enforcement challenge for governments;
   • Toward a regional security architecture for critical infrastructures.

12 : 30 – 14 : 00 : Lunch
14 : 00 – 16 : 30 – Theme 2 – **The new challenges of migration and transnational criminality**
   • Impact on border controls;
   • Impact on migration and transnational criminality;
   • Enabling stabilizing opportunities for migrants;
   • Promoting regional mechanisms for cross border security.

16 : 30 – 17 : 00 – Coffee Break
17 : 00 – 19 : 00 – Theme 3 – **The Inter-African cooperation and its new challenges**
   • The Inter-African cooperation;
   • Regional and continental mechanisms;
   • An effective Cooperative policy options.
   • Working with integrated policy structures

19 : 00 – 19 : 30 : Synthesis & Closing
19 : 30 – 20 : 00 : Press Conference
21 : 00 : Dinner

**Tuesday 10 October 2017**

9 : 00 – 12 : 00 – B to B meetings with officials and sponsors
Welcoming of the Africa Security Forum participants

Opening of the Africa Security Forum in Casablanca

Mohamed Fakhreddine
Credit Agricole of Morocco Group - Morocco

Tihierry Delville
Delegated of the security industries - France

James Wayman
World expert digital identity, USA

The security challenges of the continent peeled in Casablanca

Challenges Hebdo

The new technologies against cross-border crime

Maroc Hebdo

Security/Growth: these challenges which wait for Africa

L'Economiste
Experts discuss in Casablanca about the stakes of the new technologies and security in Africa

Le Matin

Mr. Charki Draiss, Homeland Vice Minister arrival’s - Morocco

Exchanges between the participants and the speakers

InfoMaroc

Security: the Africans discuss in Casablanca

Driis Benomar
Atlantis Executive Chairman, Morocco

Alain Juillet
FTTS President, France

Chariki Draiss
Homeland Vice Minister - Morocco

Mohammed Mahmoud Ould Mohamed
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mauritania

Security in Africa, experts exchange their experiences

La Vie Eco

Africa Security Forum kicks off on Monday in Casablanca

Morocco World News.

Africa Security Forum: Need a strengthened coordination by sharing information

L’Opinion

Bernard Didier
Founder Morpho – France

Thami Ghorfi
ESCA Executive Chairman and Forum Moderator - Morocco

2015 Edition

Jean Paul Ngoumou
Economist- France

Gilles de Kerchove - EU’s Coordinator for the fight against terrorism; Belgium

Appeal to a continental strengthened coordination by sharing information

Libération