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**African and International Participants Gather in Senegal to
Explore Comprehensive Solutions to the Challenges of Radicalization**

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies, working with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, organized a workshop titled “Preventing Terrorism: Developing Comprehensive Solutions to the Challenges of Radicalization”. The workshop was held in Dakar from April 10-15, and was co-hosted by the Government of Senegal’s Ministry of Defense. During the workshop, 64 participants explored comprehensive solutions to the challenges of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa.

At the end of the week, participants affirmed that security, development, culture, and communications sectors have to work together to effectively respond to the political, cultural, and socioeconomic factors and recruitment dynamics contributing to violent radicalization. Participants agreed that we must engage Africa’s youth, viewing them as a resource to counter radicalization rather than a threat that has to be managed.

Ambassador Godec, Principal Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the U.S. Department of State, noted that “military power, intelligence operations, and law enforcement alone will not solve the long-term challenge. More force is not going to prevent young men and women from embracing violence as a solution to political and social problems. Rather, they need viable alternatives to vent their frustrations, satisfy their ambitions, and to challenge injustices using peaceful means.”

Ambassador Bellamy, Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, added that “what we know today is that the factors leading to radicalization, violent extremism, and eventually terrorism are complex. They require the attention of a wide range of actors, both civilian and military, both governmental and non-governmental. They require international action, since the sources of radicalization may be specific in some societies, but can also flow swiftly across borders and through globalized media networks.”

The U.S. Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea Bissau, Marcia Bernicat, spoke to the participants about the importance of the partnership between the Governments of the United States and Senegal. It is because of this strong partnership that Dakar was chosen to host the workshop, through which participants were able to learn about the Senegalese approach to countering radicalization.

Participants attended from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, the U.S., the U.K., the Netherlands, and Norway. African attendees included security, development, and other civilian officials representing a number of ministries, including foreign affairs, development, education,

youth, employment, religious affairs, culture, communications, defense, home affairs, interior, national security, and justice.

Also attending were representatives from the United Nations, African Union, European Union, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and World Bank. Representatives from nearly a dozen NGOs and civil society actors also participated.

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U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, Marcia Bernicat and Senegalese Minister of the Interior, Mr. Ousmane Ngom, at the opening ceremony



Some participants at the opening ceremony

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