

REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

AT THE

16th EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION

ON TERRORISM AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA

MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022

Your Excellency Mr. Jão Manuel Goncalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, and Acting Chairperson of the African Union;

Your Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat  
Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

Esteemed Colleagues of the Assembly;

Invited Guests;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

The focus of this conference, which is to find solutions to the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism, aimed at taking urgent action and implementing measures necessary to support Member States that are facing the severe effects of terrorism and unconstitutional changes of Government is timely and commendable.

Your Excellencies, as we are all aware, our Continent continues to experience the proliferation of terrorist groups, which threatens peace, stability, democracy and security, as well as the integrity of the respective States where they operate. For the first time in the Continent's history, the threat has spread to all of its Five (5) regions.

The twin phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism undermines the sovereignty and territorial integrity of African States, disrupting the functioning of constituted Governments and their capacities to deliver needed goods and services to their populations, while plundering the existing natural resources needed for economic growth and development.

Your Excellencies, the issues of terrorism and unconstitutional changes of Government in Africa must therefore be frontally addressed by declaring them as Continental emergencies. This will heighten African and global awareness of the severity of the problem and help to mobilize urgently needed financing and related support.

It will in turn enable us to develop the capacities of confronting the persistent threats, evaluate current response mechanisms, and decide on the specific actions and necessary measures to strengthen the security of the respective Member States facing terrorism and violent extremism.

Regarding undemocratic changes in Governments, we need to implement actionable strategies to address their upsurge on the Continent. In this respect, I would like to recommend that we consider implementing the recommendations of the recent Accra Declaration on

Unconstitutional Changes of Governments in Africa declared by the African Union Reflection Forum, held from March 15-17, 2022, in Accra, Ghana.

Your Excellencies, Africa has recently experienced the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of Government, particularly military incursions into politics, with negative consequences for peace, security, stability, constitutional governance, and development.

This development is happening at a time when cumulative and significant efforts have been made by African Leaders, continental and regional institutions, particularly, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to consolidate democracy.

Liberia, as a Founding Member State of the African Union, and a successful post-conflict polity, looks forward to leveraging its experience in dialoguing and cooperating with all African Union Member States on matters relating to peace, security, political stability and combating terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the unconstitutional changes of Constituted Governments in Africa.

I thank you for your kind attention.