

# Sahel Judicial Cooperation Platform

**Special Meeting on “International Judicial and Law Enforcement Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism Matters pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2322 (2016) and Other Relevant Council Resolutions”**

*New York, 20-21 June 2017*

Judge Abdou HAMANI  
Director of Judicial Affairs  
Ministry of Justice for Niger  
Focal Point for the Sahel Judicial Cooperation Platform



# Creation of the Sahel Judicial Cooperation Platform

Creation of an informal network on judicial cooperation between criminal justice practitioners from Sahel countries in 2010 as terrorism threat is growing in the sub-region

Official creation of the Sahel Judicial Platform in a ministerial level meeting in 2012 in light of the Mali crisis: adoption of the charter and rules of procedure.



# Composition



**Facilitation of international judicial cooperation related to criminal matters, with a focus on terrorism cases:**

**Speed up transmission and execution of international judicial cooperation requests**

**Help to identify possible challenges and solutions**

**Support to the central authorities for international judicial cooperation :**

**Facilitate informal contacts (including with other regional judicial cooperation network such as Eurojust)**

**Provide key information on legal requirements**

**Provision of technical assistance**




# Sahel Judicial Platform structure

Secretariat

Technical  
Committee

Council of  
Ministers





## *Gaps in the application of International Law and judicial cooperation in the fight against terrorism*

Insufficient ratification of universal counter-terrorism instruments

Insufficient internalization of universal instruments in domestic law

Inadequate knowledge of International Law

Inadequate knowledge of the mechanisms and tools available

## *Trends in the application of International Law and judicial cooperation in the fight against terrorism*

Efforts to integrate universal instruments into domestic law

Efforts to harmonize national legislations

Efforts to improve cooperation



## *Challenges in the application of international law and judicial cooperation in the fight against terrorism*

Lack of knowledge by the actors of the criminal justice chain of the international legal framework and judicial cooperation mechanism

Overcoming the scepticism of the national authorities who would tend to keep a purely national procedure without recourse to international cooperation

Lack of harmonized jurisprudence of High Courts in terrorism related cases

Actors of the criminal justice chain are reluctant to apply international legal instruments that have not been integrated in the national framework, although it is not a requirement in monist legal systems of Sahel countries

Lack of jurisprudence of Supreme Courts related to counter-terrorism

Lack of understanding of the importance of Human Rights protection while countering terrorism

Lack of importance given to nationals who become foreign terrorist fighters

Lack of knowledge of how to handle terrorism [TJETBT10373.8]m[ ]TJETnd jud C







*Good Practices in the field of the application of International law and  
judicial cooperation in the fight against terrorism*



## *Relevant mechanisms within the Sahel Judicial Cooperation Platform for information-sharing on countering terrorism*

Annual meetings of focal points

Regular contacts between FPs  
24/7 communication- *Village*

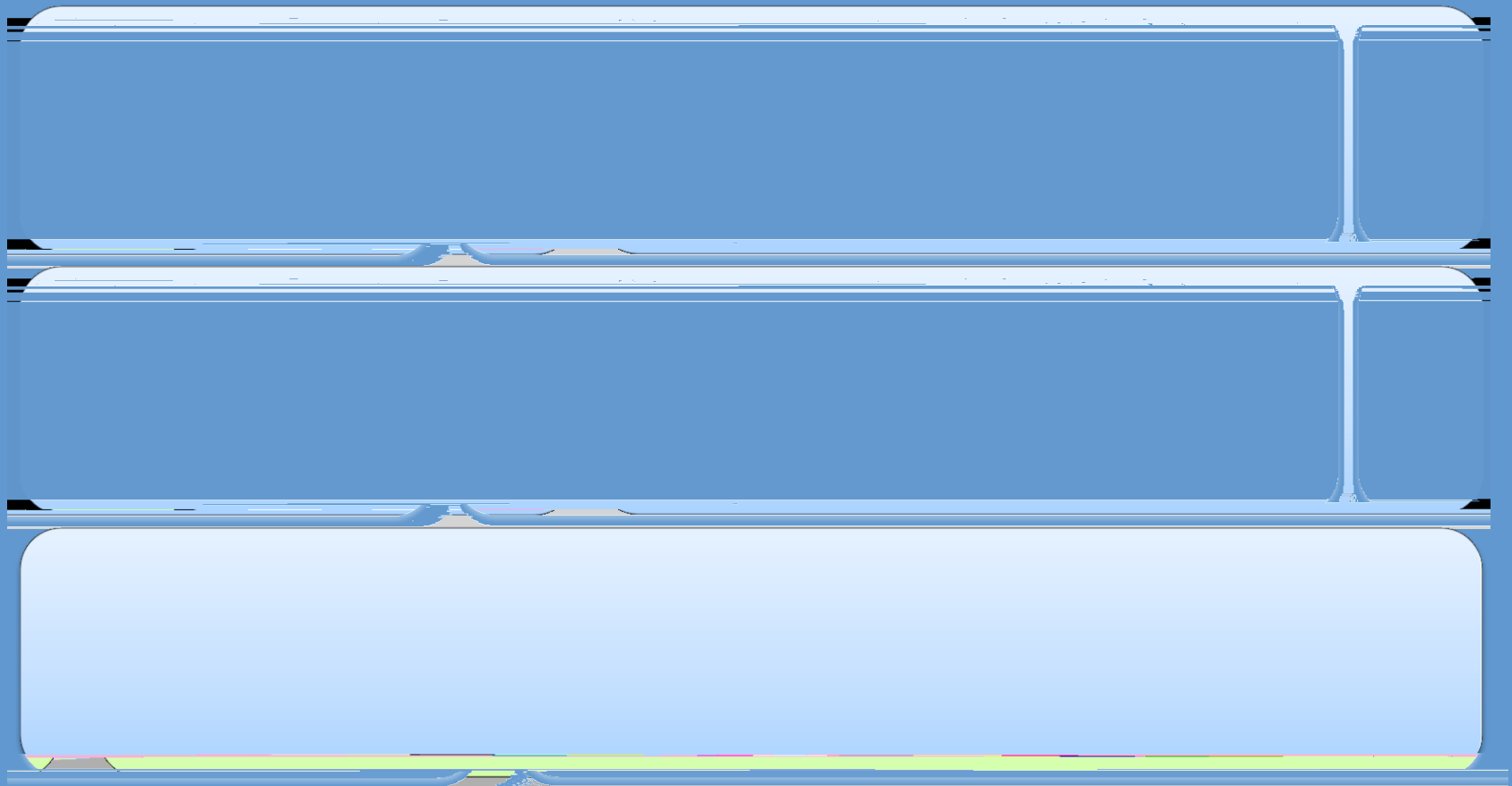
Project to create secured  
information online database



## *Cooperation with other networks*



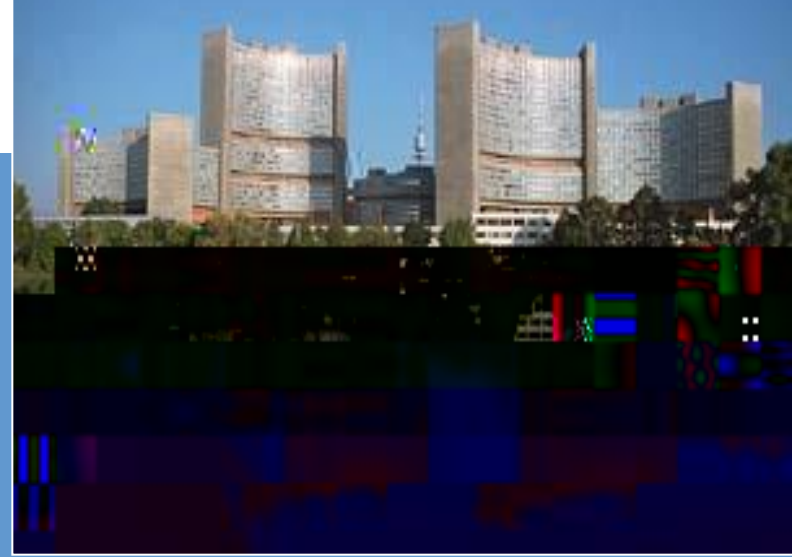
# Sahel Judicial Cooperation Online Portal in Development





# Sahel countries international judicial cooperation tools





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*Thank you for your attention*

