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**Summary of Conclusions from  
Sahel-Maghreb Oversight Committee Meeting  
January 8, 2015**

**RELEASE IN FULL**

- The Committee generally endorsed the priorities and goals contained in the FY 2015 TSCTP Strategic Objectives paper. The Committee confirmed the importance of identifying clear strategic goals to guide program planning in Washington and the field, and to assist in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of results. The Committee recognized that the paper would inform Department of Defense (DoD) planning efforts for the Counterterrorism Partnership Funds (CTPF), and could contribute to ongoing efforts to better balance military and non-military resources available for TSCTP programming and to support the objectives/recommendations identified in the Sahel-Maghreb Strategy.
- Given budget planning cycles, the Committee noted that the existing draft FY 2015 TSCTP Strategic Objectives paper should be a multi-year plan to inform the current (FY 2017) budget build process or TSCTP should create a second planning document to serve that purpose.
- The Committee approved the Strategic Objectives paper's enhanced focus on the Lake Chad region, community resilience activities across the region, and increased focus on institutional reform and capacity-building. The Committee noted the importance of pursuing regional approaches to the CT challenges in the Sahel and Maghreb and encouraged Bureaus to reflect this in ongoing TSCTP programming. The Committee recommended that the paper focus more attention on the Maghreb, and also noted the importance of maintaining enough flexibility to ensure that the evolving situation in Libya is reflected in TSCTP planning.
- The Committee instructed TSCTP action officers to produce proposals for a way to ensure that the USG elicits African TSCTP partner feedback and input (e.g., a partner conference, other meetings, etc.) The Committee recognized the value enhanced of communication between the U. S. government and the African members of TSCTP, as well as between the various African representatives. The Committee tasked TSCTP action officers to identify objectives and desired outcomes for a meeting with African partners. The Committee highlighted the importance of supporting African regional or sub-regional fora and emphasizing the U. S. government's supporting role. The Committee acknowledged that any

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effort(s) will take place pending the availability of funds and human resources.

- The Committee commended USAID for making significant progress in developing the Sahel Development Initiative (SDI), and recognized the importance of adequately resourcing SDI's identified lines of effort. The Committee focused on the importance of building a strong rationale for resourcing SDI objectives in the FY 2017 budget, and identifying FY 2016 resources from throughout the interagency that could support various SDI lines of effort. The Committee agreed that SDI's initial focus on Niger and the Lake Chad region was appropriate, but also emphasized the importance of focusing on other parts of the Sahel.
- The Committee endorsed the current planning process for a phased Sahel-Maghreb border security action plan. The Committee observed that the Sahel and Maghreb regions have major border security challenges, welcomed the strategic approach to identify how the U.S. government can contribute to regional and international efforts to strengthen border security in the region, and noted the action plan represented an excellent opportunity for collaboration and information-sharing. The Committee noted that TSCTP should look for opportunities to incorporate CVE objectives into border security planning, as has been done in several instances in East Africa. The Committee highlighted ongoing French and other initiatives to enhance security along several border areas in the region, and emphasized the importance of coordination. The Committee noted that the deliberate planning process for the border security action plan could serve as a model for other TSCTP efforts.
- The Committee also strongly commended ongoing efforts to enhance TSCTP monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes for all TSCTP programs. The Committee recognized recent State/AF and State/NEA staff increases that promise to significantly enhance TSCTP program management. The Committee applauded the completion of the first annual TSCTP FY 2014 Annual Report, which was completed to respond to recommendations from GAO review of State-funded TSCTP activities, and recommended that the next bi-annual TSCTP report should reflect TSCTP reporting in its entirety (State and USAID). The Committee stated its interest in continuing to receive updates on the status of developing M&E initiatives.

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