



In January 2024, UNIDIR will release a study **on trends in the use of uncrewed systems by non-state armed groups, particularly terrorist groups in Africa**. This study will identify enabling factors and salient trends influencing the deployment of uncrewed systems in Africa. UNIDIR hopes that this study will help to inform appropriate national and regional strategies, policies, and countermeasures.

Finally, the linkages between the proliferation of conventional weapons and violent extremism in West Africa are well-established, yet rarely considered together. In December 2023, UNIDIR, Switzerland, and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Development in Africa co-organised a regional seminar to address this gap. Experts urged for a **joined-up approach for preventing violent extremism and managing weapons**. Practical recommendations for operationalising such an approach will be published in March 2024.

UNIDIR remains committed to conducting research, promoting dialogue, and developing and providing support to interested parties on the use of tools to help strengthen counter-terrorism efforts in Africa. UNIDIR looks forward to the successful outcome of the African Counter-Terrorism Summit.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.