



الفريق الوطني لأمن وإدارة الحدود  
NATIONAL TEAM FOR BORDER MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY



# Enhancing Operational Land Border Security Cooperation in the Sahel- Saharan Region

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## **Enormous Challenges and Threats Derives Necessity for Regional Cooperation**

- Today, all countries in the Maghreb and Sahel-Saharan region are aware of the implications and challenges connected to borders. The threats and challenges are enormous and common to all countries in the region. Many initiatives and mechanisms has been launched to address the border issues, but not many of them are successful or even operationalised.
- In fact, many activities on border security cooperation has taken place at the highest political level in the region, however, most of the initiatives has been the product of short term political wins and therefore not supported or sustained when trying to operationalise them. The initiatives that are functioning or at least operating seems all to be driven by outside actors.
- Who knows today any thing about Tripoli Action Plan (March 2012) or Rabat Declaration (November 2013) which was endorsed by 10 Countries in the Region, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Chad, Mali, Niger, Sudan, Egypt and Libya, in March 2012 .



## **Enormous Challenges and Threats Derives Necessity for Regional Cooperation**

- Tripoli Action Plan which emerged from the First Regional Ministerial Conference on Border Security Cooperation (2012), is a well established joint and comprehensive regional strategy developed by a senior security professional experts from the 10 state members, to combat factors of instability across the regional borders, it includes all the implementation mechanisms in the short, medium and long-term to enhance cooperation and face the security challenges and the growing intrusions across the borders.
- In fact, our region does not have a shortage of initiatives, strategies or plans to enhance cooperation on border issues, our problem lies in deficiencies in the follow up process and capacity to act and implement.
- In the light of the security challenges our region is experiencing which no State is able to confront alone, a radical change is needed in regional cooperation mechanism, we needs to be more pragmatic. We need to translate our political initiatives in to a solid operational steps on the ground. It's time that we move forward and establish a regional framework, a regional entity to enhance cooperation between our countries in order to defeat today's cross border organized crimes and counter-terrorism, which threatens the all.



## Enormous Challenges and Threats Derives Necessity for Regional Cooperation

### Threats & Challenges:

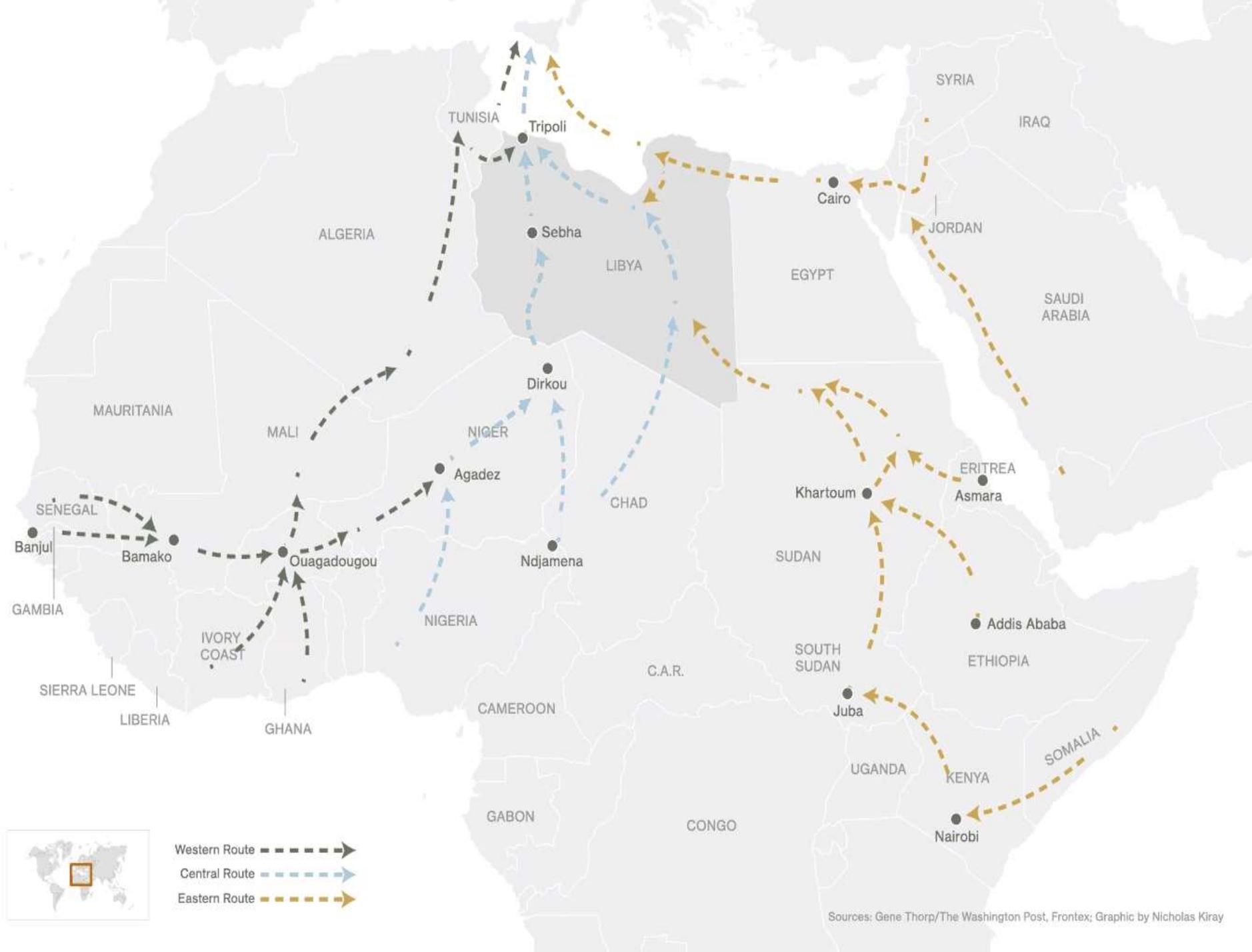
A risk assessment on the existing and emerging threats in Libya identified 38 different situations for which security is of great concern. Out of the 38 threats, 11 considered to have a direct impact on Libyan border security and management.

- Narcoterrorism.
- Radicalized returnees from combat zones and hotbeds.
- Irregular immigration & Human Trafficking.
- Smuggling of subsidized goods, fuel, medicines, etc.
- Drug trafficking and contraband.
- Cross Border Terrorism and spread of radicalised groups.
- Influence of Foreign Armed Groups.
- National Identity Fraud.
- Arms proliferation among local border communities.
- Illegal fishing.
- Sea pollution.



## Challenge of immigration & Human Trafficking

- Irregular immigration consists a common challenge for both Europe and Africa. Indeed migration crisis, south-north, is a real and quite massive. The problems with all the immigrant crises are it's just a symptom of a huge problem somewhere else, and the dilemma is that the international community still insist on tackling the symptoms rather than tackling the problem itself.
- For so long, the international community has been responding to the issue of migration through a crisis management perspective (security measures to block the migration flow & provide some humanitarian aids) .
- Dealing with the migration from a crisis management perspective only, may ease the problem for a certain limit, a certain time and a certain location but it will not eradicates the phenomenon.
- Sustainable Migration partnership between south and North based on spirit of cooperation, solidarity, shared responsibility and win-win strategy, is a key factor for deriving solid and tangible solutions that are based on a common sound understanding of the drivers of migration.
- We need to re-think outside the box, we need to think beyond the crisis, we need to 'plant the seeds' today for a mid & long term approach on migration, the international community needs to deliver a major boost to Africa on the scale of the U.S. Marshall Plan implemented in Europe after World War II.



- Western Route
- Central Route
- Eastern Route

Sources: Gene Thorp/The Washington Post, Frontex; Graphic by Nicholas Kiray



## Combating Transnational Threats

### Radicalism, Returnees, Terrorism, Trafficking, and Organised Crime

- Border security is a pressing issue for North African-Sahel countries facing common challenges related to terrorism, illicit trafficking, and immigration.
- The vast space of the Sahara and the West coast of Africa has become a breeding ground and safe haven for organised criminal activity, as this region is suffering from a vast security vacuum, which has provided the armed gangues and criminals with vast potential to move in a geographical area stretching from Mauritania to Darfur region of Sudan penetrating six African countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Algeria, Chad and Libya, to the Sudan. This desert area which is exploited by these gangs is estimated to be 4 million square kilometers.
- The difficulty in the terrain and the desert hostile environment, the limited capacity and resources available with the lack in the mechanism of coordination and security cooperation between the regional states, all of that makes the regional States largely powerless in controlling their borders, unleashing the groups of organized crime of various forms, extremism, terrorism, smugglers and Human traffickers, to exploit the borders of those States in their movements and carrying out their operations across those borders threatening the security and stability of all states in the region.



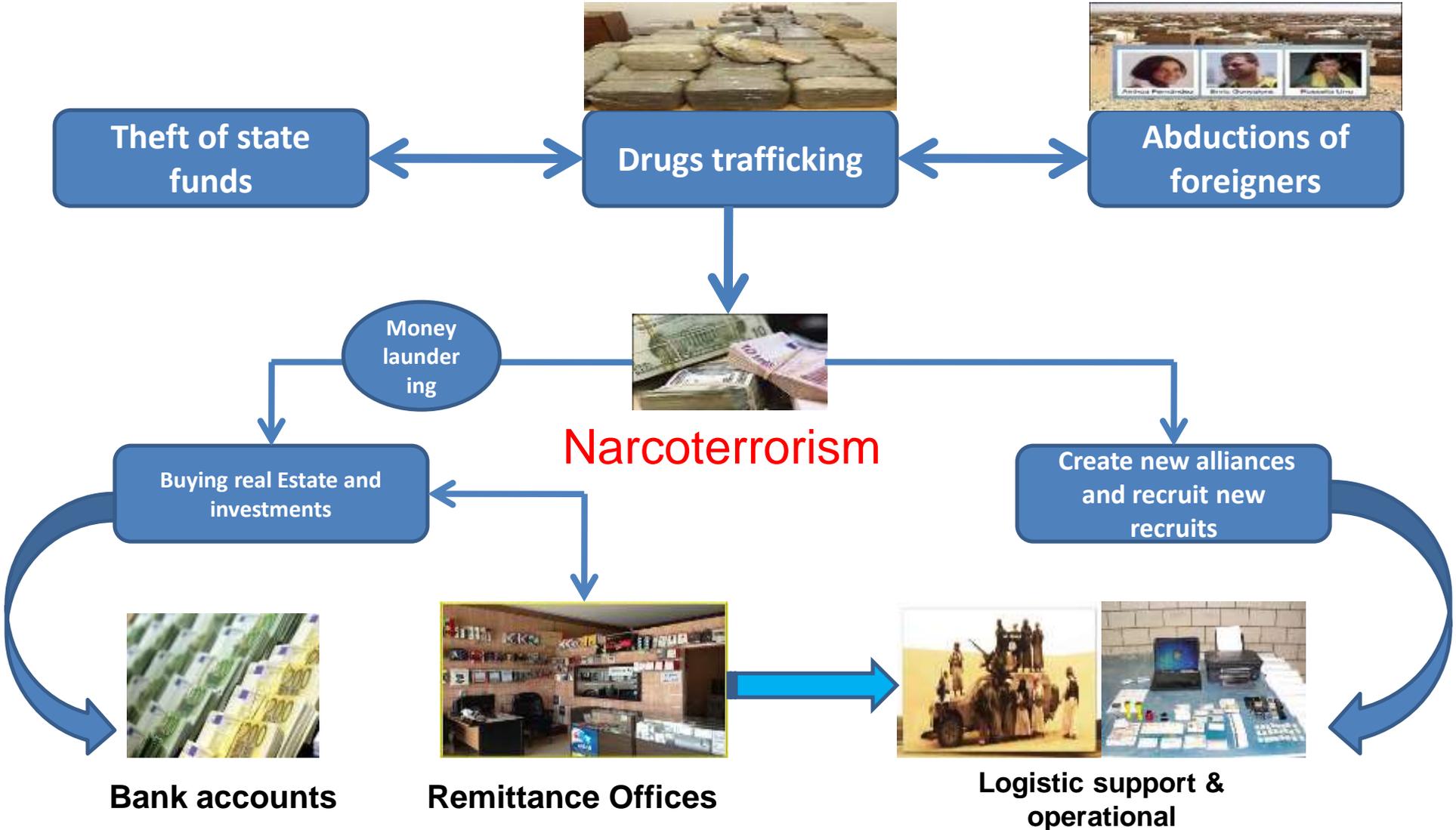
## Combating Transnational Threats

### Radicalism, Returnees, Terrorism, Trafficking, and Organised Crime

- Radicalised Returnees could cause tremendous havoc to the fragile security in the countries of the region. Tunisian terrorist events are proof of how a few radicals can terrorize a country, devastate businesses, especially tourism, and call into question the government's ability to provide "protection" to the population.
- The root causes of the radicalism from North Africa has to be addressed (the failure of governments to govern, to root out corruption, and meet basic needs of the populations, especially youth).
- Both hard and soft approaches to dealing with returnees need to be adopted, stronger anti-terrorism laws, monitoring returnees, curfews/state of emergency, forfeiture of passports, imprisonment coupled with reintegration and reeducation, community participation, psychological support, job training, state controlled education of Imams, etc.

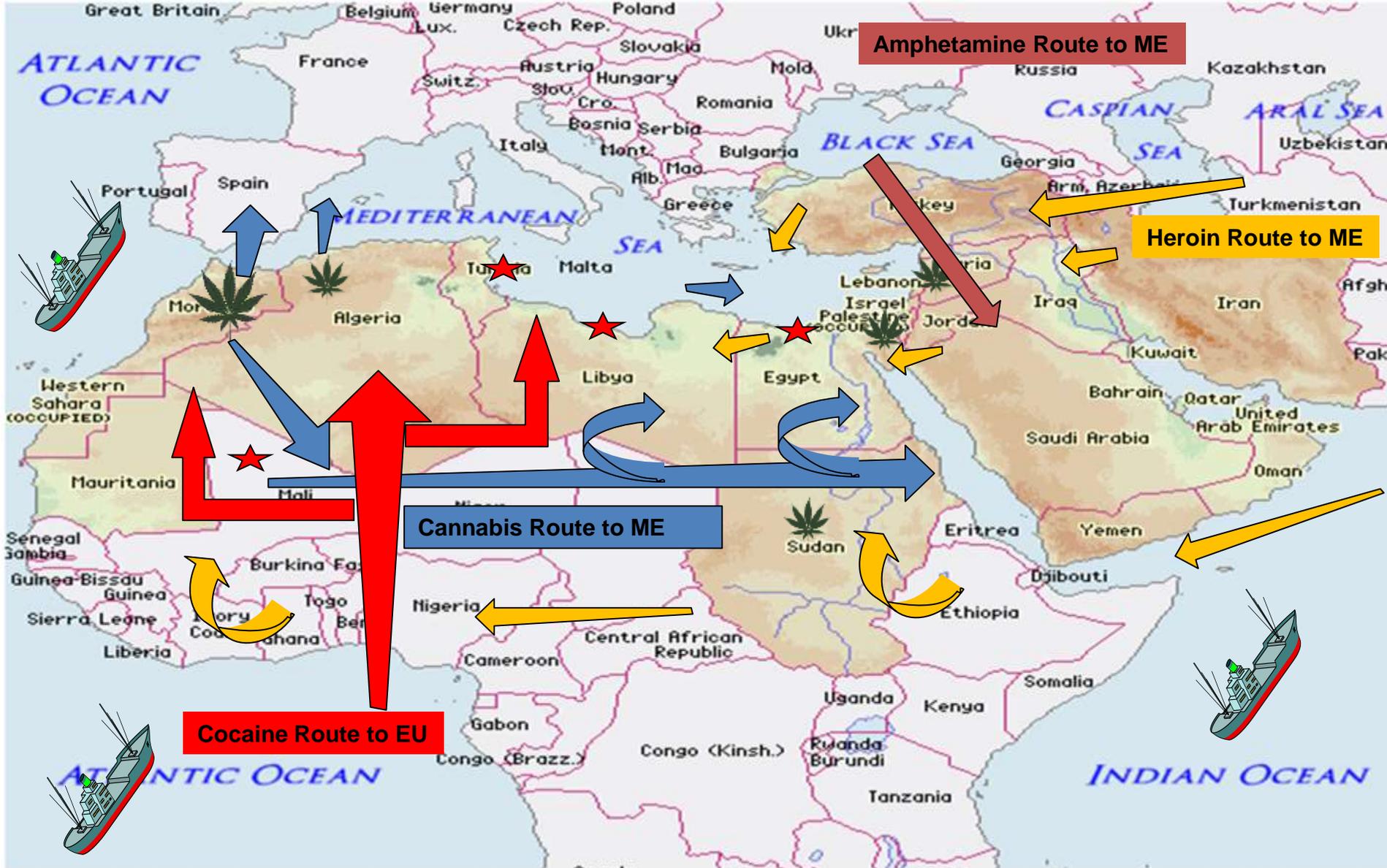
# Sources of funding for extremist groups

Extremism and Terrorism Challenge



# طرق ومسارات تهريب المخدرات بدول الساحل والصحراء

## Drug Trafficking Routes in the Region





# IBM Strategy for Border Security Reform in Libya

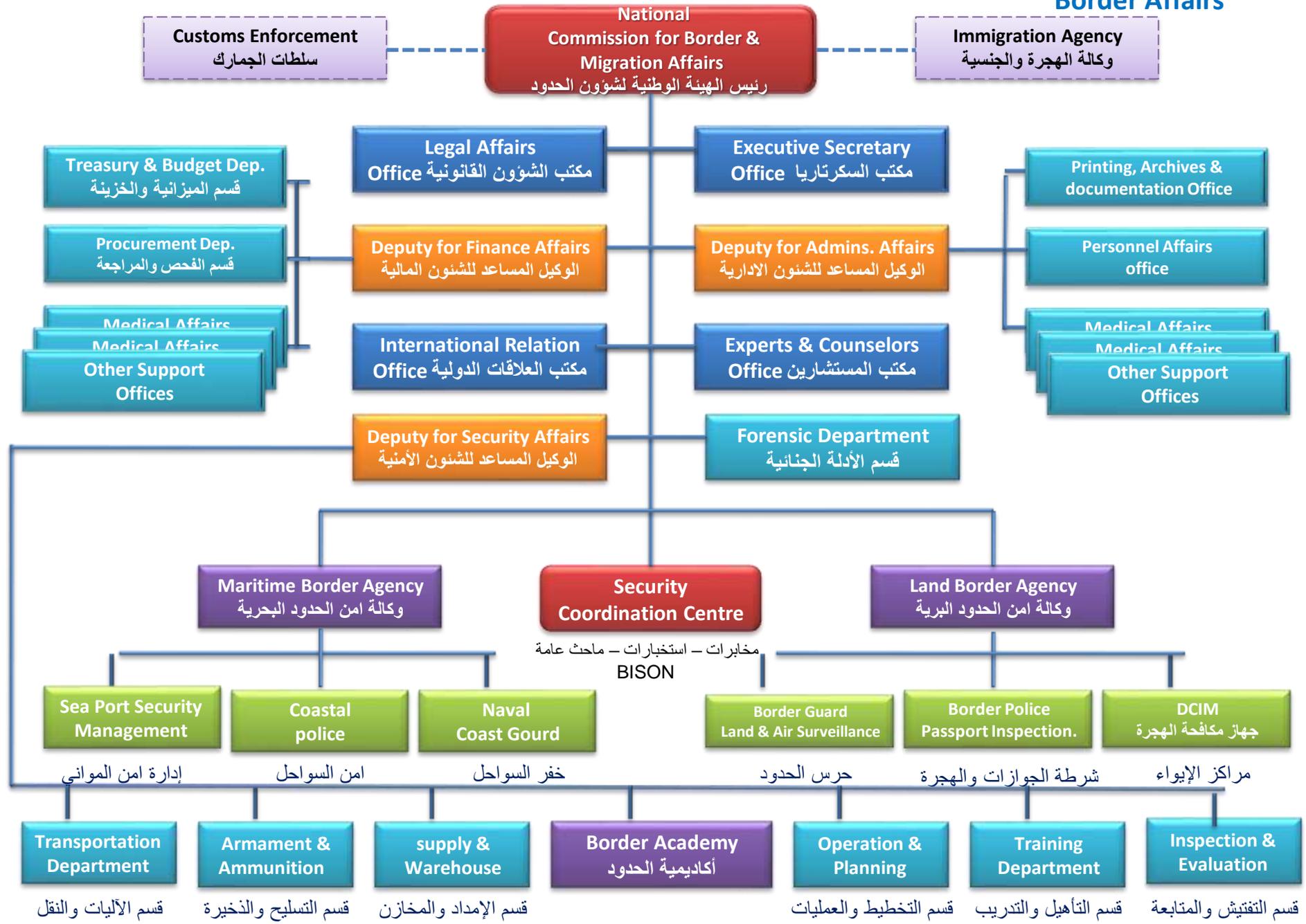
## IBM Definition:

- It's the national and international coordination and cooperation among the relevant authorities and agencies involved in border security and trade facilitation to establish effective, efficient and integrated border management systems, in order to reach the objective of open, but well controlled and secured borders.
  - In line with the definition, its clear that the key aspects of the IBM concept are hovering around cooperation, coordination and collaboration between the related stakeholders.
  - Four different models of IBM structure have been discussed and assessed, the NTBSM decided, with full support from EUBAM Libya, that “model 4” is the most suitable one for reforming the Libyan border security and management. It is based on a single land, air and sea agency (for border checks and surveillance), an independent Migration Agency and an independent Customs Agency. The three agencies will work under the umbrella of an overarching coordination function.
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## IBM Strategy

- Four different models of border security and management have been discussed and assessed:
  - *Model 1 Independent Agencies*, adding a coordination function on top.
  - *Model 2 Creation of two Independent Agencies: Maritime Border Agency & land border Agency*, with an overarching coordination function.
  - *Model 3 Merging all six administration into one single agency.*
  - *Model 4 a single maritime and land border agency, with stand alone Migration agency and a stand-alone customs agency, with an overarching coordination function for the three agencies.*
  - In conclusion, and after assessing the different models, the NTBSM decided, with full support from EUBAM Libya, that “model 4” is the most suitable one for reforming the Libyan border security and management. It is based on a single land, air and sea agency (for border checks and surveillance), an independent Migration Agency and an independent Customs Agency. The three agencies will work under the umbrella of an overarching coordination function.
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# Sahel-Sahara Regional Border Security Secretariat (SSRBSS)

For  
Enhancing Border Security Cooperation in the Sahel-Sahara  
Region

الأمانة الإقليمية لأمن حدود منطقة الساحل والصحراء

من أجل تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي  
في مجال أمن وإدارة الحدود

Inter-Ministerial Committee on Integrated Border Management Programme  
Tripoli - Libya

SSRBSS  
MEMBER STATES  
الدول الاعضاء

Morocco



Algeria



Tunisia



Libya



Egypt



Mauritania



Mali



Niger



Chad



Sudan

- The SSRBSS is an emanation of the “Tripoli Action Plan”, drafted during the First Regional Border Security Conference (Tripoli; March 11-12 2012) and of the “Rabat Declaration” issued during the Second Regional Border Security Conference (Rabat; November 13 - 14 2013).
- The Rabat Declaration emphasized the importance of accelerating the establishment of the secretariat mentioned in the Tripoli Action Plan, and agreed that Libya will draft its structure. The secretariat structure should be presented to member states representatives in a meeting to be held in Tripoli within two months RD.
- Therefore a tentative structure for the secretariat, its mission and field of operations has been drafted and presented to the concerned states in two meetings held in the MoF where some changes on the structure has been agreed; the final SSRBSS structure is subject to the approval by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Border Security Conference which will be held in Cairo later.

# Definitions

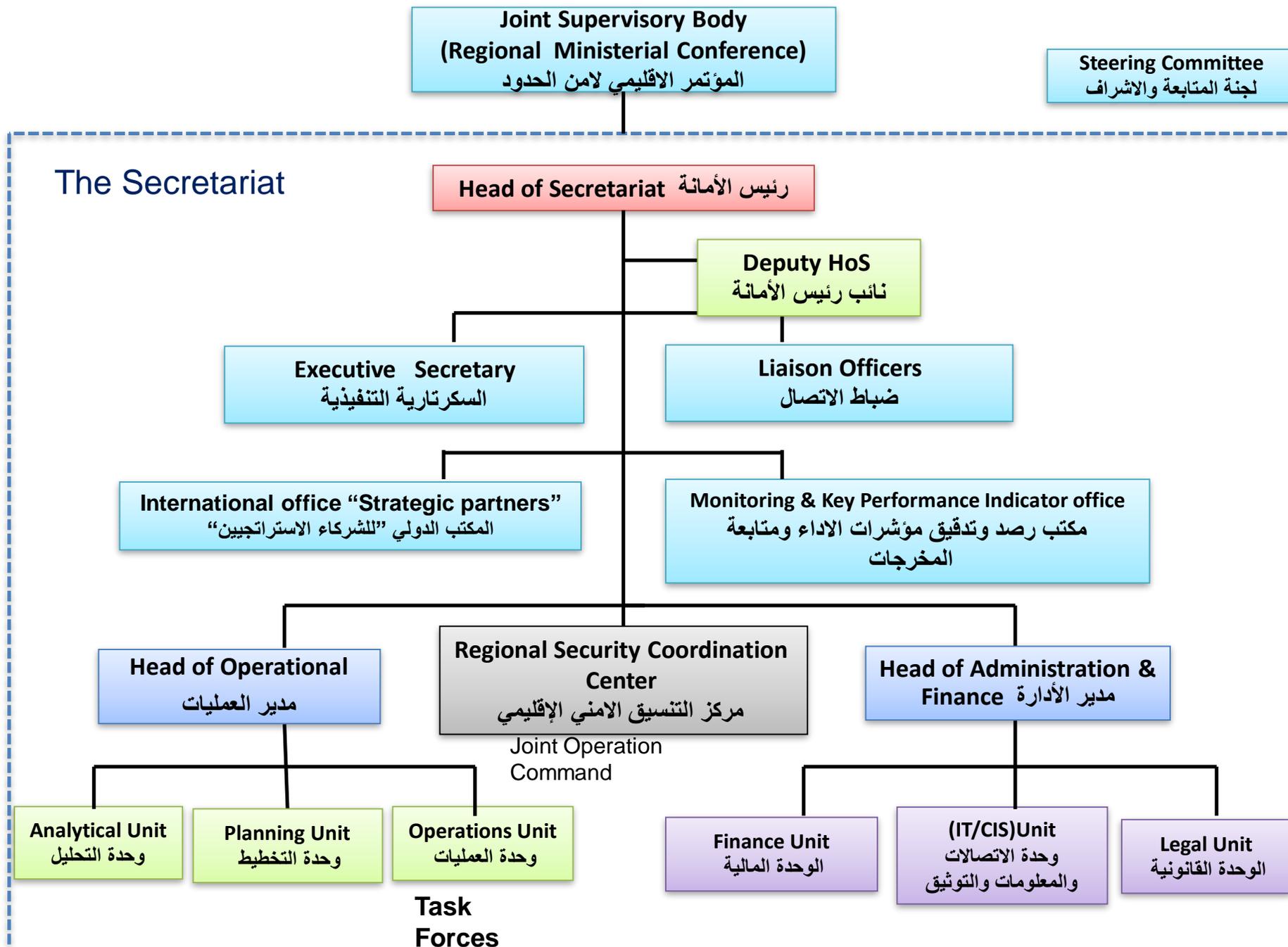
- **Regional Border Security Secretariat (RBSS):** RBSS is a flexible regional tool for daily inter-agency coordination in border protection and combating cross-border crime in North Africa and Sahara Region. Cooperation Partners are different law enforcement agencies (e.g. Border Guard, Coast guard, Customs Authorities, Immigration Authorities, etc.).
- **Field of Operations:** The field of operation covers land, air and maritime borders.
- **Member states:** (Egypt - Libya - Tunisia - Algeria - Morocco - Mauritania - Sudan - Chad - Niger - Mali).
- **Strategic partners:** African Union, Maghreb Union, UN, EU, ....etc.

## **Mission & Mandate of the Secretariat**

- To develop practical procedures and mechanisms for implementing Tripoli Action plan and identify, implement priority projects in matters of border security.
- To coordinate with national, regional and international initiatives in matters of border security, counter terrorism and organized transnational crime.
- To set up sectorial working groups in the fields of security, information, custom and justice to formulate proposals in these areas before the holding of the next ministerial conference in Cairo.
- Establishing/strengthening a mechanism for regional exchange of information on all regional threats (Smuggling, illegal immigrations, weapons trafficking, drugs etc.
- Convene counterpart meetings of experts to create practical mechanisms for the implementation of the decisions taken.
- Undertake concrete measures to address and tackle terrorism phenomena particularly in great Sahara and across border areas.
- Creating means for securing financial support to fund some secretarial activities related to the regional border security.
- Follow-up consistently with states' and other players on their activities in implementing the Tripoli Action Plan, ensuring that undertakings and initiatives move along at a reasonable pace;

## **Mission & Mandate of the Secretariat**

- Planning and organizing events: ad hoc meetings, ministerial meetings, etc.
- Preparation and dissemination of all relevant reports (Risk analysis, threat classification, it's bases, sources of funding and the development of strategies and joint coping mechanisms.
- Developing Road map (mapping exercise) to specify goals, plans, priorities, responsibilities and performance index (what is needed done, who does what, what the remaining steps to accomplish and who will do it . . . etc).
- Organise and plan for joint or parallel policing and patrolling activities on the borders (Task force).



Task forces:- National or Regional

الأمانة الإقليمية لامن وإدارة الحدود



SSBG

Regional Border Security  
Secretariat

## Conclusion

- Enormous Challenges beyond any Country to cope alone.
- Common/shared threats can only be dealt with common/shared responsibility..
- Regional Governments needs to be increasingly proactive rather than reactive.
- Creating a regional operational body is the solution for countering transnational organized crime and strengthening border security cooperation in the region.
- **Finally**, I would emphasis that migration will be exist as long as its motives and causes exist, people will keep moving motivated by their hopes for better life, and it's either the good opportunities goes to the people, or the people goes where there is a good opportunities. Development remains a key factor to fix people in their home countries, development countries in Africa need to take advantage of the opportunities they have with their natural resources, they need infrastructure investment, human resource development, access to technology at affordable prices, knowledge exchange and know how transfer, that only will make Africa more productive and contribute positively in the world economic growth.