



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. USMAN SARKI,
AMBASSADOR/DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. We wish to assure you of our full support and cooperation during your tenure.

2. Nigeria aligns herself with the statements of the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on behalf of the member States. My delegation also commends the Secretary-General for his report A/68/180 and appreciates the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 towards the finalization of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. An increasing number of attacks are taking place in various parts of the world despite stringent measures to prevent them. The attack on a shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya on 21st September, 2013 is still fresh in our minds. The entire world recoiled with horror and indignation from the attack.

4. Nigeria too is a victim of terrorism. Since 2009, the Boko Haram terrorist group has embarked on an indiscriminate killing spree attacking security forces and civilians alike. Thousands of lives have been lost. Normal life has been disrupted in some parts of the country resulting in untold hardship for Nigerians from all walks of life, religious persuasions and ethnic backgrounds.

5. After several attempts to seek a peaceful resolution of the crisis proved futile, the Government of Nigeria embarked on an offensive operation against members of the group which is now yielding positive results. Many more have fled and found refuge elsewhere. There is now relative peace in areas that were previously volatile and challenging to live in.

6. In this endeavour, our law enforcement agents are receiving the cooperation and support of the local communities. The Government is doing all that is humanly possible to ensure that operations by the security forces are carried out with the least hardship on innocent civilians and the full observance of rules of engagement.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Realizing that all out offensive action may not be the solution to the problem, the Government of Nigeria has taken steps to address the socio-economic challenges in that part of the country where Boko Haram's activities have been most widespread. Policies aimed at mitigating poverty, illiteracy and unemployment are now being diligently implemented.

8. Additionally, efforts are underway in organizing workshops for the benefit of unemployed youth in these areas in collaboration with the United Nations and other partners. These initiatives focus on poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes. The feedback so far has been encouraging and Government intends to ensure that these activities are sustainable.

9. These efforts are being reinforced by measures such as the establishment of platforms where inter-faith religious meetings are organized to emphasize the importance of tolerance, peace and harmony with a view to curtailing the killings of civilians and security officials in various parts of country. It is also part of the strategy to rehabilitate those repentant militants and terrorists who are being released back into the society.

Mr. Chairman,

10. At the normative level, recently at the Treaty event at this current session has acceded to two legal instruments on international terrorism, namely; International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages and International Convention for the Suppression of terrorism Bombings, as a demonstration of our resolve to combating terrorism in all its ramifications. Nigeria is convinced of the need for collaborative

response to the terrorist threats and related challenges. Our experience has shown the viability of the establishment of fusion centers, the sharing of intelligence and joint operations, regional collaborative actions including the building of capacities where they may be needed. Nigeria will continue to partner with friendly countries and international bodies such as CTITF and CTED in identifying and addressing gaps in our efforts to counter the threat of terrorism in the country.

11. On our part, we shall sustain our support to ECOWAS in its effort to curtail the movement of arms in our sub-region and develop a comprehensive sub-regional strategy on terrorism as well. We shall also continue to participate in the activities of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), which remains a veritable platform for concerted action against the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Nigeria appreciates the important role of the United Nations in galvanizing global efforts towards a successful fight against terrorism. We applaud the efforts of the CTITF, CTED, UNODC and other agencies in that regard. Indeed, the I-ACT initiative is an example of what could be achieved when the UN system coordinates better and delivers as one.

13. We welcome the efforts made by the CTITF to launch the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in various parts of the world. Nigeria is proud to host the regional seminar for West Africa and the Sahel from 16th to 17th October, 2013, and welcomes the participation of all partners in the global fight against terrorism.

14. We are of the view that these efforts should be reinforced by the elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. In this regard, we welcome the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and wish to stress that its success depends largely on our support and cooperation.

15. Allow me once again, Mr. Chairman, to reiterate Nigeria's firm commitment to the fight against terrorism as well as resolve to collaborate with the United Nations in carrying this work forward.

I thank you.