



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**AMB. USMAN SARKI,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**ON**

**MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM  
(Sixth Committee Meeting)**

**AT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER, UNITED NATIONS  
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK**

**10.00 HOURS, 12 OCTOBER 2015**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by thanking you for convening this important meeting. This being the first meeting of the Sixth Committee for the 70th Session, I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the Committee. We are eager to benefit from your invaluable wealth of experience and from your inspirational leadership.

2. In our World today, terrorism has become a universal menace. No issue has dominated the strategic landscape as much as terrorism. It constitutes one of the most serious and deadliest threats to international peace and security. It is insidious in character and transnational in nature. The debilitating effects of terrorist acts, including the erosion of law and order, the destabilization of structures of governance and its negative impact on economic growth have adversely affected development and stability in many countries.

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. Recent terrorist attacks and onslaught across the World, serve to remind us that this threat is a clear and present danger. It constitutes a threat to the great and small; to the strong and weak alike. Terrorism is organized in a tightly woven network. We believe it will take a network to untangle defeat a network. With this understanding comes the realisation of the importance of an all-inclusive regional and international collaborative approach to deter and defeat terrorists. The key to its defeat is best described by a naval maxim, "all hands on Deck."

4. For this reason, the Nigerian delegation had since last year expressed our support for the initiative of establishing a Working Group to finalize the process of drafting a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as well as the convening of a High-Level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Nigeria notes with the understanding that a compromise will be achieved in the 3 key areas that have been impeding progress, which are, the Question of exclusion from the scope of the Conventions of acts committed during an armed conflict in situations of foreign occupation; Question of exclusion of acts of military forces of a State during peace time; and Question of inclusion within the Convention, of acts considered to constitute "State Terrorism." We remain optimistic that the 70<sup>th</sup> Session will usher a consensus that will not only address the issues raised above but other salient concerns as the name appropriate appellation for Convention. We are looking forward with keen interest to the outcome of work of the Working Group.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. Nigeria commends the Secretary-General for his report before us on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism," A/70/211. We noted that the report also contains a summary of the replies received from states, relevant specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations on measures taken at the national, regional and international levels on the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. It also contains information on incidents caused by international terrorism as well as information on national laws and regulations on counter-terrorism.

6. In recent times, Nigeria has faced the challenge of terrorism, manifested in the brutality of Boko Haram against the population. The group indiscriminately targets civilians, Muslims and Christians alike, places of worship, recreational centers, and media establishments, not even a UN Building was spared in 2011. These acts, rather than daunt Nigeria, helped to strengthen our resolve to rise up against the scourge of terrorism through development of new national plans, closer cooperation with our neighbours and the international community.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. Friends of Nigeria and foreign partners will be encouraged that the new Government in Nigeria is addressing the challenge of Boko Haram strategically. Government moved with dispatch to put in a bold and robust strategy to defeat Boko Haram. Nigeria and her neighbours Cameroon, Chad and Niger as well as Benin are working concertedly to confront this common threat within the sub-regional framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission with a multinational joint task force to degrade and defeat Boko Haram.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. Beyond West African sub-region, Nigeria remains committed to working closely with all UN counter-terrorism entities. We also note, with satisfaction, the role being played by the United Nations Centre for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT) in the fight against terrorism as well as the synergy evolving between the Centre and CTITF entities.

9. In the face of the accelerating global security challenges, Cyber threat has become co-terminus with terrorism. Cyber threats, which can cause mass disruption of business communications; manufacture; service delivery and workings of Governments, is indeed, another peril to humanity. Every attack, regardless of its target, poses a global threat and could imperil commerce and communications among nations, due to the interconnections of digital infrastructure and networks as well as the interdependencies of national and regional economies. We must do more by developing an analogous approach against this danger.

10. One thing is certain: The war against terrorism on all frontiers can only be achieved through the firm and determined resolve of all Member States of the United Nations. States Parties must ensure full compliance with all United Nations Resolutions and Conventions against terrorism and its financing as well as other instruments adopted at regional levels. This will constitute not only a valid point of departure, but also a contextual framework for cooperation among Member States.

**Mr Chairman,**

11. I thank you for your attention.