



STATEMENT

BY

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ON

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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

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PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

This being the first time my delegation will be taking the floor at this meeting, I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the Sixth Committee for the 72nd Session. I assure you of Nigeria's cooperation and support for your leadership of the Committee during the Session.

2. Nigeria welcomes the recent appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Counterterrorism and commends the Secretary-General for his report A/72/111 of 21 June 2017 on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" tabled before us. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier on this agenda item, by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Today, no issue has dominated global landscape as much as that of terrorism, which is a serious menace to international peace and security. As we all know, terrorist acts are insidious in character and usually destabilize the structures of governance with adverse effects on development in the affected countries. Terrorist attacks and onslaughts across the World, confirm that this menace has continued to be a threat to everyone irrespective of the location and how powerful a nation is. For this reason, it is important to develop an all-inclusive and collaborative approach to jointly deter and annihilate terrorism.

4. Nigeria was confronted with the challenge of terrorism as manifested in the brutality of Boko Haram activities against the

population. The Nigerian government confronted this terrorist organization head-on and their activities have been completely degraded. Nigerian forces have been able to clear Boko Haram out of many areas in the northeast by reclaiming territories captured by the organisation and restoring peace and stability in the affected states. Today, residents in the North-Eastern states now move about their daily businesses in relative safety.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The government of Nigeria introduced many measures to fight this menace from different fronts and government ensures compliance with human rights obligations in the fight against terrorism. In August, 2016 President Muhammadu Buhari launched the revised National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) and urged Nigerians to team up to win the psychological battle against terrorism. The President called for multi-sectorial collaboration and urged all government establishments to cue into NACTEST for maximum achievements. The revised strategy was meant to confront the dynamism of the perpetrators and involve all stakeholders in the battle by encouraging Nigerians to unite against terror in spite of their religious, tribal and political leanings.

6. Since the president's launch of this revised National Counter Terrorism Strategy, Nigerians have equipped themselves psychologically to win the war against the terrorist group. The strategy succeeded in uniting Nigerians from all walks of life towards defeating Boko Haram. It also encourages religious leaders to use their various places of worship

to enlighten their followers through change of mindset to embrace morality and love of God.

7. We have trained and equipped our military forces in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency on subjects ranging from urban patrol to unarmed combat and humanitarian law. The Special Forces of the Nigerian military have been training a mobile strike team of some officers of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps and the Nigerian Police. As additional measure, Nigeria has developed huge capacity for the prompt and timely prosecution of Boko Haram suspects. This has been made possible by the establishment of a Complex Case Group (CCG) to specifically address all terrorist-related matters. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force of the UN (CTITF) has successfully trained many government officials in the areas of human rights, rule of law and counter-terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

8. There is also a programme for de-radicalisation, rehabilitation, reorientation and re-integration for repentant Boko Haram suspects. In order to assist the victims of Boko Haram, government initiated a Victims Support Fund and the Presidential Initiative for the North East as well as the Safe Schools Initiative. These initiatives have facilitated the provision of humanitarian relief, socio-economic stabilization and resettlement of persons displaced by the terror organization.

9. It is remarkable to note that Nigeria has indeed recorded significant progress in the fight against terrorism through international

cooperation from some friendly countries around the World. We enjoyed closer cooperation with our neighbours, especially Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin Republic who have come together within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to form a Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), headquartered in N'Djamena, Chad. We like to recall with satisfaction that on 13 May 2016, the Security Council through a presidential statement commended the important advances by the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram.

10. Nigeria's commitment to fight international terrorism was equally demonstrated through our support for General Assembly Resolution 71/108 adopted on 14 December 2016 by which the Assembly recommended that at the Seventy-Second Session, the Sixth Committee should include in its agenda to discuss the question of convening a High-Level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations. This is to formulate a jointly organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Certainly, 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 to work together. 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.

12. Consistent with our faith in the need for a collective fight against terrorism, I like to re-affirm Nigeria's commitment to work closely with all UN counter-terrorism entities, including the United Nations Centre for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT) as well as the Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF).

Mr. Chairman,

13. I thank you for your attention.