

STATEMENT

BY

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

ON

**“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM”**

2ND- 4TH OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Chairman

My delegation joins other speakers to congratulate you and Members of the Bureau on your election to Chair the 78th Session of the Sixth Committee. We assure you of our support and cooperation during the session.

2. Nigeria commends the Secretary-General for the report on the measures to eliminate international terrorism, as contained in document (A/78/221). My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Non-aligned Movement (NAM). I will now deliver the statement in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman

3. Nigeria strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. International terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Nigeria is no stranger to the activities of terrorists. The Boko Haram operating in Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad has become the deadliest in the region. There is active collaboration between the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Boko Haram.

4. Terrorist access to funding, recruits and weapons remains a major obstacle to the progress in the fight against terrorism in the region. The increasing incidents of mass kidnapping is fast becoming a phenomenon that poses significant threat to the security of lives and properties. This requires collective and decisive measures, as flow of funds from such a source is a major means to enhance their

capabilities to carry out their activities and attacks. The emerging alliance between bandits and terrorists, which has the potential to increase the threat to vulnerable targets, institutions and infrastructures is an equally important matter we need to collectively confront.

Mr. Chairman

5. The persistent threat to security and livelihoods by terrorism in the region, and to international peace, necessitates collective action and approach by the region as well as the international community and partners to strengthened national, regional, and global responses. The most effective regional response to curtail the threat of ISWAP in the Lake Chad Basin region has been the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). Through closer cooperation with our neighbours within the framework of Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the MNJTF continues to be more effective in the fight against Boko Haram and ISWAP. The non-kinetic stabilization responses by the LCBC, including the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS) and the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs), seek to stabilize, recover, and build resilience of Boko Haram affected communities. Nigeria continues to spear-head the funding for MNJTF, the first regional formation for countering terrorism in the region.

6. On the national level, the Nigerian Government has, through its national Counter-Terrorism strategy and action, curtailed the heinous atrocities of the Boko Haram insurgency and their activities. The Government has strengthened the legal framework for fighting

terrorism through the adoption of an amendment to its terrorism (Prevention) Act, thus ensuring the implementation of more robust counter-terrorism measures. Nigeria enacted the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) in 2016 and the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. Nigeria is actively pursuing the implementation of the policy framework to address the root causes of violent extremism.

7. The government in 2022 passed into law the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, which provides a comprehensive legal framework prohibiting and criminalizing the acts of terrorism. The Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act (TPPA) formally established the National Counter Terrorism Centre to better coordinate the establishment and implementation of Counter Terrorism polices and strategies. Additionally, the Act provides the legal framework for the creation of National Sanctions Committee for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on countering the financing of terrorism. These instruments have improved Nigeria's capacity to respond to and counter the threat of terrorism.

8. The Act also establishes a Special Victims Trust Fund, domiciled in the Office of the Attorney-General to pay compensation, restitution and damages to victims of terrorist attacks .The creation of the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW), the National Commission for the Coordination of Cyber security and the National Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) are all efforts at confronting the challenges of terrorism and insecurity. MNJTF's response has greatly benefited from the support

and flow of information from the Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit (RIFU).

9. To safeguard Nigeria's maritime borders from the activities of maritime terrorists, the Naval Unit of the Nigerian Armed Forces is preoccupied with policing activities to secure Nigerian waters in the face of multi-dimensional maritime threats including maritime terrorism through a strategic approach centered on the tripod of surveillance of the maritime environment, timely response to incidences of maritime crime, and the prosecution of offenders.

Mr. Chairman

10. Nigeria continues to implement a coherent strategy to curb terrorism and comprehensively address the conditions conducive to terrorism. With prevention at the bedrock of this strategy, we continually enhance efforts, strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks, and make improvements in the areas of screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. Nigeria remains fully committed to ensuring that all perpetrators of terrorism are prosecuted. The government has also recorded progress in its criminal justice response to the scourge of terrorism. The commitment to prosecute perpetrators of terrorism remains unrelenting. Nigeria has also established several national legislations to bring perpetrators of terrorism and other related offenses to account and foster engagement among the National Assembly, the Judiciary, security agencies, other stakeholders, and international partners to strengthen criminal justice measures for preventing and

countering terrorism and violent extremism. Nigeria's response to terrorism, is not only effective but also based on rule of law.

Mr. Chairman

11. Nigeria appreciates all our donors for their support, while encouraging the wider international community to lend more support to help rebuild local communities. There is the need for wider financial support, including through the United Nations to tackle the ever-growing threat of terrorism in Africa. As such, adequate sustainable and predictable funding from the UN to the African Union (AU) to assist regional security operations to curb the menace of Terrorism is needed. Nigeria places high priority on countering the financing of terrorism, and we will strive to combat the misuse of the cyberspace and new technologies by terrorists. We will continue to work with regional and international partners to address the threat of Da'esh and Al Qaeda in Africa.

12. Nigeria is fully committed to the pursuit of global peace and will continue to support regional security mechanisms. As part of the commitment to fight terrorism in the region, Nigeria will host the UN High-Level International Summit on Counterterrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Africa taking place in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2024. We support the work of the UN Office for Counter Terrorism and call for the full implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. We also welcome the establishment of the UNOCT regional programme Offices on Counter Terrorism and training in Nairobi, Kenya and Rabat, Morocco. These

Offices will provide training and capacity building facilities in the fight against terrorism in Africa.

Mr. Chairman

13. Nigeria is willing to support any proposal to empanel any Working Group for the elaboration of a new convention on terrorism and other related offences. The war against terrorism can only be achieved through the determined resolve of all Member States of the United Nations working together. Parties must ensure full compliance with all United Nations relevant resolutions and Conventions against terrorism and its financing, as well as other instruments adopted at regional levels. This will constitute a contextual framework for cooperation and building partnerships among Member States and other stakeholders.

14. In conclusion, let me reiterate Nigeria's commitment to working against terrorism and condemning terrorism in all forms and manifestation and partnering with our neighbours and with the international community at large in this urgent task.

I thank you.