



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE
SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNGA
ON
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
(AGENDA ITEM 105)**

NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to warmly congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation also like to joins other speakers in commending you for convening this important meeting to deliberate on the Report of the Secretary-General on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". Nigeria aligns herself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) delivered by the distinguished delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and wishes to underscore a few issues of interest.

2. Today's meeting could not been more appropriate, as the phenomenon of terrorism has preoccupied global attention, including the Government of Nigeria, in recent times. Within the last two years, the militant group, Boko Haram, has not only continued to pose a threat and a danger to the country, but also, available evidence suggest that the group is now stretching its tentacles to link up with other terrorist groups in the Sahel. The group's increasingly virulent posture, its tactics and ideology and the increasing use of sophisticated Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's) are pointers to its external links with other terrorist groups.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Nigerian Government in realization of the complex and mutating nature of the threat, as well as the diversity of conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, has resolved that, countering terrorism will require a comprehensive, multifaceted and sustainable response at the local, regional and global levels. In this regard, Nigeria's campaign against

terrorism has, to a large extent been focused on four main planks namely: National, Regional, Multilateral and Functional Responses.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Nigeria has undertaken far-reaching measures towards countering terrorism at the national level. President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan signed into law, on 3rd June, 2011, the Terrorism Prevention Act (TPA) 2011 and the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011. The TPA 2011 established measures for the prevention, prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism, as well as funding of terrorism, while the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, strengthened measures, to interdict and the financing of terrorism.

5. In order to strengthen the provisions of these laws in accordance with modern standards, Nigeria is currently reviewing some of the legal/regulatory architecture to incorporate global best practices. The Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2012 – which is under consideration in the National Assembly, seeks to expand the definition of the offence of terrorism and strengthen the sanction regime, as well as the power of the Courts to act more expeditiously on terrorism related cases.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In order to enhance Nigeria's Counter-Terrorism capabilities, the Government has also created several agencies and units to work out strategies to deal with the emergent terrorist threats. Some of these measures include:

- Creation of the position of National Counter-Terrorism Coordinator in the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), to coordinate efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Units in all the Security Agencies;
- Drafting Nigeria's National Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which would ensure an all-embracing approach to handling Counter-Terrorism issues;
- Established an Inter-Agency Task Force, known as the National Focal Point (NFP) on terrorism in collaboration with the United Kingdom and the United States;
- Setting up of a Fusion Centre to coordinate Counter-Terrorism activities and serve as a contact for foreign intelligence services;
- Restructuring of the Banking sector and strengthening of relevant Anti-Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism measures by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), including the deployment of a web-based Enhanced Financial Analysis and Surveillance System (e-FASS);
- Harmonization of the activities and operations of GSM Providers and Users to enable control and proper monitoring of terrorist activities; and
- Creation of a Database for the monitoring of individuals and groups suspected of partaking in terrorism or maintaining links with terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Nigeria has also signed several regional Counter-Terrorism treaties, ratified several Conventions and signed a number bilateral, as well as multilateral agreements, designed to enhance the ability of countries in the region to cooperate in the investigation, prosecution and extradition of terrorist suspects. In January 2013, Nigeria would host a regional workshop by the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in West Africa and the Sahel.

Mr. Chairman,

8. There is no doubt that in the past two years, Nigeria has made great strides to confront terrorism. However, despite the progress attained in this respect, the danger from terrorism remains present and visible. The overarching challenge in the next few years will be to find ways to sustain the international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The ability to maintain, and hopefully, strengthen such cooperation would depend on developing and implementing strategies and programmes at the multilateral, regional and national levels, that would effectively and comprehensively address changing terrorist financing, operational tactics and recruitment methods.

I thank you.