



STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS,
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

AT THE

**THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CONGRESS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM
SESSION 5: REHABILITATION, ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT**

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UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to thank the United Nations Secretary General, H.E. Antonio Guterres, for convening the Global Congress for Victims of Terrorism and UNOCT for hosting this important event.

2. The Congress is yet another positive milestone, along with the General Assembly's Resolution on the "Enhancement of International Cooperation to Assist Victims of Terrorism", which reaffirms strong global commitment to ensure the promotion, protection, and support for the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. In this regard, Nigeria is pleased to stand with other Member State, UN entities, Victim Associations and Civil Societies at this Congress to reassure all victims and survivors of terrorism that you are not alone.

Excellencies,

3. The unfortunate occurrence of terrorist attacks in Nigeria by Boko Haram and its splinter faction ISWAP over the past few years has adversely impacted the lives of innocent victims, who often struggle to heal and recover from past traumas while bearing the physical, mental, and emotional scares. In this regard, the Government of Nigeria has strengthened its support to victims of terrorism through the adoption of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022, which establishes a Special Victims Trust Fund within the Office of the Attorney-General to pay compensation, restitution, and damages to victims of acts of terrorism.

4. The importance of access to justice for victims of terrorism cannot be overemphasized. Bringing the perpetrators of the heinous crime to justice, plays a critical role in restoring the mental and social wellbeing of victims of terrorism. So far over 1000 terrorist cases have been concluded in Nigeria and we continue to partner with UNOCT and UNODC to strengthen our criminal justice responses to terrorism.

5. Providing relief, rehabilitation, and other forms of assistance, including psycho-social support, to victims of terrorism in the country, often women and children, is a major priority for the government. As such, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development was created

in 2019 by H.E President Muhammed Buhari to coordinate and address all humanitarian needs in the country.

6. The Ministry has seven (7) Specialized agencies to carry out this important mandate as well as the implementation of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) which is a major initiative that provides support to vulnerable people, especially victims of terrorism. Food, non-food items and other relief materials are periodically distributed to the victims.

7. The Ministry through the North East Development Commission (NEDC) and other socio-economic empowerment programmes facilitated the provision of 10,000 housing units for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and victims of terrorism in Borno State. In the same vein, The Ministry through National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) launched the **PROJECT ZERO HUNGER** an initiative that will fight food insecurity for all IDPs and Refugees.

Excellencies,

8. Adequate funding to support victims of terrorism could greatly bridge the gap between commitments made to support victims of terrorism and the implementation of these commitments. Nigeria welcomes the Secretary General's call for increasing funding to victims of terrorism, and in this regard, are willing to work with other Member States and the UN system to explore the proposed options.

9. In closing, let me reiterate that as a member of the Group of Friends of victims of terrorism, Nigeria remains committed to share best practices and lessons learned related to the protection of and assistance to victims of terrorism. As part of this commitment, the Government of Nigeria and UNOCT will be organizing an African Summit on Counter-Terrorism in October 2023 in Abuja, titled: **"Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa"** and a Ministerial event on 7th December this year, which will also provide a platform to mobilize international support for victims of terrorism in African States.

10. I thank you.