



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

828 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • TEL. (212) 953-9130 • FAX (212) 697-1970

STATEMENT

BY

**TAIWO ABIDOGUN, ESQ
SOLICITOR-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION AND
PERMANENT SECRETARY,
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, ABUJA**

ON

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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

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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 71st Session, I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the Committee for this Session. We are eager to benefit from your invaluable wealth of experience and from your inspirational leadership.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the distinguished representative of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group.

3. It is worrisome that 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 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,

4. Terrorist attacks and onslaughts across the World, suggest that this threat is a clear and present danger. It constitutes a threat to the great and small, the strong and weak alike. Terrorism is organized in a tightly woven network. We believe it will take another network to untangle and defeat that network. With this understanding, comes the realisation of the importance of an all-inclusive regional and international collaborative approach to deter and defeat terrorism. The key to its defeat is best described by a naval maxim, "all hands on deck."

5. For this reason, Nigeria supports all the efforts of the UN to fight, degrade and defeat terrorism and we are committed to working closely with all UN counter-terrorism entities. In particular, my delegation likes to 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 the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF).

Mr. Chairman,

6. Consistent with our belief in joint efforts to fight and eliminate international terrorism, the Nigerian delegation supported Resolution 70/120 adopted at the General Assembly on 14th December, 2015 by which the Assembly recommended that at the Seventy-First Session, the Sixth Committee should re-establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the **Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism** as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly Resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a High-Level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In this regard, we eagerly look forward to the completion of the **draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism** as the Sixth Committee continues its work on this subject in the framework of a Working Group during the 71st Session.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Nigeria commends the Secretary-General for his Report A/71/182 of 22nd July 2016 before us, (with Addendum 1 of 23rd August 2016 and Addendum 2 of 15th September 2016), on "**Measures to Eliminate**

International Terrorism." We note that the report was prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly Resolution 50/53, as read together with Assembly Resolution 70/120 on measures to eliminate international terrorism and it contains information on measures taken at the national and international levels, based on submissions from Governments and international organizations. It also contains a list of relevant international legal instruments.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Over the years, Nigeria has been confronted with the challenge of terrorism as 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. Even the UN building in Abuja was not spared in 2011. These acts, rather than daunt the country, have continued to strengthen her resolve in rising against the scourge of terrorism through 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, to degrade and defeat this terrorist organisation.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Precisely on the 13th of May this year, in the Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2016/7) issued at the 7692nd Meeting of the UN Security Council, the Council commended the important territorial advances against Boko Haram by the Multinational Joint Task Force. The Council also

welcomed the crucial initiative of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, HE Muhammadu Buhari, to convene the Second Regional Security Summit on 14th May 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria.

Mr. Chairman,

10. It is noteworthy that 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. This revised strategy is 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. The revised strategy 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. The President called for multi-sectorial collaboration and urged all government establishments to cue into NACTEST for maximum achievements.

11. It is also remarkable to note that, Nigeria is making good and significant progress in the fight against this terrorist organization through international cooperation. Meanwhile, our gallant men of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Multinational Joint Task Force have worked assiduously to regain large areas of the country captured by the Boko Haram terrorists. We like to add that even in the fight against terrorism, government ensures compliance with human rights obligations. Residents in the North Eastern states now move about their daily businesses in relative safety. However, as terrorism has occasioned a multiplicity of social challenges which the government is making frantic efforts to grapple with, we still require more international cooperation to completely defeat Boko Haram.

12. 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 deal with all terrorism matters. There is also a programme for de-radicalisation, rehabilitation, reorientation and re-integration for repentant Boko Haram suspects. In addition, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force of the UN (CTITF), in its second phase of capacity building, has successfully trained over 100 government officials in the areas of human rights, rule of law and counter-terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

13. 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,

14. I thank you for your attention.