



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE/CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

AT THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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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 74th Session. I assure you of Nigeria's cooperation and support for your leadership of the Committee during the Session.

2. Nigeria commends the Secretary-General for his report on measures to eliminate international terrorism. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered earlier, on this agenda item, by the Distinguished Representatives of the Gambia, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the African Group, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), respectively.

Mr. Chairman

3. Terrorism has continued to be a serious menace to international peace and security. As we are all aware, terrorist acts are insidious in character and usually destabilize the structures of governance with adverse effects on development in the affected countries. Given this sad reality, we have continually called for the need to develop an inclusive and collaborative approach to jointly deter and annihilate terrorism.

4. Nigeria is no stranger to the activities of terrorists, and in particular, Boko-Haram. Nigerian Government has, through its national counter-terrorism strategy and action, curtailed the heinous atrocities of the Boko Haram insurgency and keeps the terrorist group under continuous surveillance. Nigeria also has a national legislation against terrorism, Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act 2013, which provides measures for the prevention,

prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism, the financing of terrorism in Nigeria and for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

5. Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts have led to improved capability of its troops and repossession of territories formerly controlled by Boko Haram as well as the release of victims that were in captivity. It is against this background that the residents in the North-Eastern states of Nigeria now move about their daily businesses in relative safety.

6. Concerned by the growing number of arrests and detention of Boko-Haram suspects in various detention centres across the country, particularly the north east, the Nigerian government commenced the prosecution of the suspects in 2017. To this end, a total number of over 1, 321 cases were dispensed with between the period covering October 2017 and

July 2018. Out of this number, 366 suspects were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment ranging from 3 to 60 years, while about 882 suspects were released for de-radicalization, rehabilitation and re-integration programme and about 73 cases are still ongoing. Currently, the Nigerian government is in the process of commencing the trial of another batch of 1,300 Boko-Haram suspects.

7. The collaboration of neighbours and many partners aided us in large measure to achieve the current outcome. We continue to enjoy closer cooperation with our neighbours, especially Cameroun, 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.

8. Nigeria reaffirms her continued support and readiness to cooperate with the UN on efforts to end terrorism in all its manifestations. I am glad to also emphasize that Nigeria's counter-terrorism strategy is fully anchored on the respect for human rights and international humanitarian laws.

Mr. Chairman

9. My delegation wishes to reiterate that since the commencement of the revised National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) by the current administration in 2016, Nigerians have equipped themselves psychologically to win the war against terrorism. The strategy succeeded in uniting Nigerians from all walks of life towards defeating Boko-Haram. It also encourages community and religious leaders to use their various places of worship to enlighten their followers against any extremism or intolerance.

10. The programme for de-radicalization, rehabilitation, reorientation and re-integration for repentant Boko-Haram members, such as, the Victims Support Fund and the Presidential Initiative for the North East as well as the Safe School Initiative are still ongoing. The creation of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development in August, 2019 by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is aimed, among other things, at rebuilding the North Eastern part of Nigeria ravaged by Boko Haram, returning displaced persons back to their natural settlement and managing emerging natural disasters and victims of such calamity nationwide. This initiative will facilitate the provision of humanitarian relief, socio-economic stabilization and resettlement of persons displaced by Boko-Haram.

11. The war against terrorism can only be achieved through the determined resolve of all Member States

of the United Nations working together. State 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 a contextual framework for cooperation and building partnerships among member states and other stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman

12. Recently, Nigeria cooperated with the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre and the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to carry out the UN Project on **“Capacity Building and Training of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism”** to enhance Nigeria's knowledge, understanding and implementation of international human rights framework and rule of law.

13. Consistent with our faith in the need for a collective fight against terrorism, I would like to re-

affirm Nigeria's commitment to continue to work closely with all UN Counter Terrorism entities, including the United Nations Centre for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT) as well as the United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre and the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

14. In conclusion, Nigeria's adoption of the National Counter Terrorism Strategy and the policy framework and National Action Plan for preventing and countering violent extremism is a clear indication of our readiness to root out terrorism and end the destructive activities of Boko Haram, as well as partnering for safer and resilient communities.

15. I thank you, for your attention.