

STATEMENT

BY

TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE

AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

AT THE 75TH 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 and the entire bureau on your election to lead the Sixth Committee for the 75th Session. I assure you of Nigeria's cooperation and support for your leadership of the Committee during the Session.

2. My delegation also wishes to express joy seeing your faces after the daunting challenges of Covid-19 that has brought a "new normal" in the work of the United Nations.

3. 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 **Republic of Cameroun, 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

4. 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, the affected countries have continually urged other UN Member States to redouble efforts to ensure collective security as the increasing sophistication and frequency of terrorist attacks across the globe is a harsh reality of the challenges the world is facing today. To this end, Nigeria calls for the need to develop an inclusive and collaborative approach to jointly deter and annihilate terrorism.

5. Nigeria is no stranger to the activities of terrorists, and in particular, Boko-Haram. The 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 has a national legislation against terrorism, Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act 2013, which provides measures for the prevention, prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism, and the financing of terrorism. In this context, Nigeria continues to count on the strong cooperation with UN Counter-Terrorism bodies and neighbouring countries to overcome the terrorists in the Lake Chad Basin and the wider Sahel Region.

6. Importantly, 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 Nigeria is vigorously sustaining the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resettlement of victims of terrorism and insurgency in the North-East through, among other efforts, the establishment of the North-east Development Commission.

7. Nonetheless, as the concern by the growing number of arrests and detention of Boko-Haram suspects in various detention centres across the country has mounted, the Nigerian government commenced the prosecution of the suspects in 2017. As a result of this, a total number of over 1, 328 cases were dispensed with, between the period covering 2017 to 2020. 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. About 80 cases are still ongoing.

8. Significantly, the collaboration of neighbours and many partners aided us in large measure to achieve the current outcome. Therefore, 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 communities and religious leaders to use their various places of worship to enlighten their followers against any form of extremism or intolerance.

10. However, 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.

11. Last year, Nigeria cooperated with the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) 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.

12. 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, especially the United Nations Centre for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT). Meanwhile, Nigeria welcomes the organizing of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week by UNOCT, with the theme "Strategic and Capital Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment" held from 6 - 10 July, 2020.

13. In conclusion, Nigeria's adoption of the National Counter Terrorism Strategy, the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and the National Terrorism Alert Levels, is a clear indication of its readiness to root out terrorism and end the destructive activities of Boko Haram, as well as partnering for safer and resilient communities around the world.

14. I thank you, for your attention.

