

STATEMENT

BY

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**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

***"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM"***

**AT THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Madam Chairperson

I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the Sixth Committee for the 76th 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 by the Representatives of the African Group, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Madam Chairperson

3. My Delegation welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly on 30 June 2021, of the 7th Review of the United Nations Counter-terrorism Strategy which addresses issues relating to exacerbation of extremist narratives and hate speech, new and emerging threats such as the misuse of technology for terrorist purposes, the misuse of internet especially social media platforms for recruitment, as well as the importance of upholding Human Rights in the fight against terrorism.

4. Nigeria also commends the UN Office for Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) on the successful hosting of the second Counter-terrorism week held from 28 to 30 June 2021. Nigeria will continue to support the work of the UN Office for Counter Terrorism and calls for the full implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

Madam Chairperson

5. My delegation also welcome the establishment of the UNOCT regional programme Offices on Counter Terrorism and training in Nairobi, Kenya and Rabat Morocco. These Offices will provide training and capacity building facilities in the fight against terrorism in Africa.

6. As we are all aware, terrorism continues to be a serious menace to international peace and security. Terrorist acts are insidious in character and destabilizes the structures of governance with adverse effects on development. Given this sad reality, we have continually called for the need to develop an inclusive and collaborative approach to jointly deter and annihilate terrorism.

7. 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 their activities are under continuous surveillance.

Madam Chairperson

8. The Nigerian Government is firmly committed to combating and eliminating the scourge of terrorism within its borders, neighboring States and across the globe. To this end, Nigeria enacted the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) in 2016 and the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in 2017. These instruments have improved our capacity to respond to and counter the threat of terrorism.

9. Nigeria continues to spear-head the funding for the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which is the first regional formation for countering terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin. Through the closer cooperation with our neighbours, especially Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Benin Republic, within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the MNJTF continues to provide greater tactical cooperation on the ground in the fight against Boko Haram and ISWAP.

10. The Commitment of Nigeria to prosecute perpetrators of terrorism remains unrelenting. Nigeria has also established several national legislations, including the Terrorism Prevention Act 2013(Amendment) with the view to bringing perpetrators of terrorism and other related offenses to account. Nigeria continues to foster engagement between the National Assembly, the judiciary, principal

national security agencies, other local stakeholders and international partners, including the European Union and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to strengthen criminal justice measures for preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Madam Chairperson

11. Since August, 2021, over 5,000 Boko Haram fighters have surrendered. This large wave of defections is a positive development and Nigeria remains fully committed to deploy the full gambit of country's criminal justice capacity to ensure that all perpetrators of terrorism are prosecuted.

12. Nigeria's national rehabilitation and reintegration program for repentant, surrendered ex-combatants affiliated with Boko Haram and ISWAP, Operation Safe Corridor (OSC), was established in 2016 under the Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA). This initiative is aimed at de-radicalizing low-risk former insurgents and address the mistrust between communities and former affiliates of terrorist groups with a view to increase the acceptance of these individuals back into the society.

13. Nigeria also continues to confront the challenge of terrorism and insecurity by setting up and empowering new structures and institutions. These include the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW), the National Commission for the coordination of Cyber security and the National Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU).

Madam Chairperson

14. In view of the prevailing humanitarian challenges brought about by the protracted insurgency, which has led to millions of displaced persons, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development continues to improve the coordination with international partners and non-governmental organisations to improve humanitarian support to displaced persons returning to the North Eastern parts of Nigeria that were ravaged by

Boko Haram. As Boko Haram is losing ground, resources and fighters; increased humanitarian and developmental responses is key to preventing resurgence. In this vein, we thank all donors for their support and encourage the wider international community to lend more support to help rebuild local communities.

15. The increasing incidents of mass kidnappings of students from schools are fast becoming a phenomenon that poses significant threat to education and a great disincentive for both parents and students. On its part, Government continues to prioritize the protection of all school children from violence and in this regard the Nigerian military has built posts close to schools. Temporary learning spaces have been built to preserve and provide uninterrupted access to education, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nigeria is also fully committed to the Safe Schools Initiative, and in October 2021 we will be hosting the Fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration.

16. Despite the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic, Nigeria's enhanced its cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Counter Terrorism (UNCCT) in the area of capacity building. Relevant government agencies were able to participate in several UNCTC-organized virtual trainings, including three (3) virtual trainings on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism. We continue to welcome such engagements which enhance Nigeria's knowledge, understanding and implementation of counter-terrorism measures as well as, providing an opportunity to share our experiences that could assist other States.

17. Nigeria remains committed to continue to work closely with all UN Counter Terrorism entities, including the United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) as well as, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. It is worthy to note that this October, the CTC and CTED will undertake a hybrid follow-up visit to Nigeria that will provide an opportunity to assess our progress

in implementing relevant Security Council resolutions and to discuss and facilitate the provision of technical assistance aimed at enhancing our counter-terrorism capacities. On our part we will ensure that participating agencies provide comprehensive analysis and responses during their engagements with the CTC to ensure a success exchange.

Madam Chairperson

18. 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 returning to their daily businesses in relative safety.

19. 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 relevant 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.

20. In conclusion, Nigeria Condemns in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and all terrorist acts, including those on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace, and determined to condemn violent extremism.

21. I thank you, for your attention.

