



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER
PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

SIXTH COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 108:
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 11, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

It is my pleasure on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. Please be assured of our full support and cooperation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement. We thank the Secretary-General for his report and would like to express our appreciation of the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 towards the finalization of the draft Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism. We also support the convening under the auspices of the United Nations of a high-level conference in this regard. We believe that these steps will constitute an important addition to the counter-terrorism legal framework established by the existing universal instruments.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a global threat that requires a global and comprehensive response. The 13 UN Conventions and Protocols against terrorism together with Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) as well as other relevant resolutions provide the legal framework for multilateral action. In September 2006, the General Assembly and UN Member States demonstrated their unity and resolve to combat terrorism by adopting the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus signifying the international community's unity of purpose and commitment in this regard.

Terrorism can never be justified. Nigeria therefore unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism. We have also taken bold steps in our efforts to combat the menace nationally, regionally and globally. Nigeria has signed 12 and ratified 10 of the 13 major multilateral international conventions relating to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism and efforts are underway to ratify the remaining 3. Nigeria's Prevention of Terrorism Bill (PTB) has been presented to our National Assembly. When passed into law, the PTB will among other offences also criminalize incitement as a means of support for terrorism, thereby conforming to Security Council resolution 1624 (2005). Pending the enactment of the PTB, the general counter-terrorism legislation is contained in the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Act, the Criminal and Penal Codes covering offences related to terrorism and their financing, financial malpractice, abduction, kidnapping and obstructing of aircraft.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2003, Nigeria ratified the 1999 International Convention for the suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Money laundering is criminalized under the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act (2004). The EFCC Act (and the PTB) provide for the freezing of accounts and funds, financial assets and other economic resources of suspected terrorists. These provisions are being vigorously enforced. So far, some convictions have been recorded on acts of terrorism and assets of 4 companies have been frozen in compliance with UN resolution 1267. Four counter-terrorism centers have been set up across the

country. The Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) became operational in 2005 and has since then received and dealt with over 2000 suspicious transactions reports and has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with many other FIUs around the world for purposes of sharing information and data. The Nigerian Central Bank has restructured the banking sector and regularly inspects all banks for anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism purposes. This has been supported with the deployment of the Enhanced Financial Analysis and Surveillance Systems (e-FASS) which is a web-based reporting application jointly implemented by the CBN and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

Mr. Chairman,

In addition, the Nigeria Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) has established integrity units within each law enforcement agency to prevent as well as investigate corruption. For coordination, law enforcement agencies such as the State Security Service, the National Intelligence Agency, the Police, Immigration, Customs, etc, meet monthly under the Joint Intelligence Board (JIB). For international cooperation, bilateral and multi-lateral treaties are relied upon to deny safe haven to terrorists.

In this regard, Nigeria has entered into bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition with many countries for the apprehension and trial of alleged terrorists and other criminals. Other bilateral agreements have also been entered into in the aviation sector to ensure aviation safety. Nigeria cooperates extensively with the UN Counter - Terrorism Committee whose Executive Directorate has conducted country visits to Nigeria, the last of which was between 13 and 17 November 2006. The visits are veritable avenues for the government and the committee to review Nigeria's efforts in the war against terror and to consider further steps to enhance it. These efforts should be continued and we urge other nations to take advantage of this facility.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community unanimously set itself high and lofty goals under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Under the Strategy's "Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism", Member States among other things resolved to promote a culture of peace, justice, national and religious tolerance, to pursue and reinforce development and social inclusion agendas at every level as goals in themselves, etc. We consider the foregoing provisions as fundamental because for the government and people of Nigeria, a successful war against terrorism has to be premised on a well conceived and systematically executed elimination of the root causes. This conviction informed the on-going inter-faith dialogue in Nigeria, coordinated through Inter-Faith Committees set up nationwide. The inclusive nature of the Nigerian administration is aimed at the elimination of marginalization and the attendant sense of victimization that insinuates extremism and the recruitment of terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the Secretary-General's action in setting up the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force which is charged with ensuring overall co-ordination and coherence in the UN system's counter-terrorism efforts. The 23 bodies of the Task Force constitute the key actors of the UN system meant to effectively coordinate the fight against terrorism. However, to ensure optimal attainment of its objectives, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of functions and working at cross- purposes. As no one is immune from the consequences of terrorist acts, all of mankind should pool resources in a symbiotic manner. As the expert body in this endeavour, the Task Force is expected to harness from every country, big or small, whatever qualities, experiences, assets, etc, that could be applied positively in the war. Nigeria believes that there are no big or small nations, no donor or recipient countries in the Counter-Terrorism effort. My delegation therefore wishes to re-assure you that Nigeria is fully committed to partnering with other Member States of the United Nations to decisively confront this menace.

I thank you.