

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR GEORGE EDOKPA

M



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

FRPPLWWHG WR GHSOR\ WKH IXOO JDPELW RI FRXQW
ensure that all perpetrators of terrorism are prosecuted.

12. **1LJHULD¶V QDWLRQDO UHKDELOLWDWLRQ DQG UHL**
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- **SDQGHPLF 1LJHULD¶V HQK** 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

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. ~~1 L J H U L D I V E F R X Q W H S~~ From its inception have led to improved capability of its troops and
