



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Counter-Terrorism Centre of Nigeria and the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism

30 August 2023, Abuja

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

This is the second Memorandum of Understanding that I am signing with Rear Admiral Musa today. We had earlier signed one formalizing the engagement between Nigeria and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in the implementation of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

I am delighted to be in the new National Counterterrorism Centre and congratulate you on this significant milestone which reinforces Nigeria's commitment towards national efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Today's event marks an important milestone in our partnerships with the Government of Nigeria at this critical time when your country is taking a leading role in regional counter-terrorism efforts.

The global terrorism picture is mixed. Although overall terrorism-related deaths declined last year and Da'esh and Al-Qaida continue to suffer leadership losses, terrorism remains a major threat to international peace and security.

Terrorist groups continue to capitalize on pre-existing social and development challenges, destroying the social fabric of communities. These groups are exploiting existing and emerging trends in violent extremism, and in doing so, exacerbate underlying drivers of conflict – both direct and indirect.

In particular, countries in conflict, including in parts of Africa, are heavily affected.

Excellencies,

Our Memorandum of Understanding is a symbol of partnership and mutual commitment between our two Entities. It provides an opportunity to collaborate in our common efforts at countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Specifically, the Memorandum of Understanding envisages further cooperation in various areas, including on countering terrorist travel, countering the financing of terrorism, border and maritime security, and delivery of counter-terrorism trainings in Nigeria.

The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding is not only the start of collaboration between the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism and the Nigerian National Counter Terrorism Centre. Instead, it formalizes the already ongoing dialogue and provides a basis to take it to a more ambitious level.

Together we will work to identify, collect, and disseminate good practices and lessons learned, and explore new opportunities by promoting dialogue and partnership through the development of capacity-building activities.

Today we mark a new chapter in our collaboration to address the scourge of terrorism.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, and friends,

The Secretary-General's Policy Brief on *A New Agenda for Peace* recognizes terrorism as a global threat and addresses the value of collective security and international cooperation in tackling the root causes of violence.

Only by exchanging views and good practices between experts and practitioners will we understand the multifaceted factors involved in the process of radicalization to violence and prevent terrorism and violent extremism more effectively.

Excellencies,

To conclude, stemming the increasing terrorist threat in the region demands a more robust and collective response.

We at the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism are looking forward to continuing cooperation with the Federal Republic of Nigeria to support Africa. Let us also work together to strengthen multilateral collaboration and confront transnational terrorist threats.

I am confident that these two Memorandum of Understanding will be instrumental for the counter-terrorism efforts of Nigeria and the region as a whole.

Thank you.