



PRESS RELEASE

UNOCT UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL MEETS NIGERIAN PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU

ABUJA, 1 September 2023 – Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Mr. Vladimir Voronkov called on H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria today. The meeting took place as part of an official visit by Mr. Voronkov and a delegation from UNOCT to the country to discuss strengthening cooperation on the evolving threat of terrorism in the region and discuss plans for a joint African Counter-Terrorism Summit in Abuja, Nigeria.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov briefed the President on UNOCT's capacity-building support to Nigeria and expressed appreciation for the strong and dynamic cooperation under several programmes and initiatives implemented over the past decade. *"I can only mention that politically, and from the point of view of capacity-building on activities for counterterrorism, Nigeria is one of the leading partners"*, he said. Mr. Voronkov also commended Nigeria for its efforts to promote international consensus and multilateral cooperation on Counter-Terrorism, including through the African Counter-Terrorism Summit in Abuja ("Abuja Summit") and the pre-Summit ministerial meeting on 21 September on the margins of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly High-Level Week in New York.

Mr. Voronkov noted that *"it is paramount to support Africa's security architecture, advocate for multilateralism, and greater coordination in countering terrorism, including by placing human rights and the rule of law as benchmarks for promoting regional peace and stability."*

President Tinubu welcomed the UNOCT delegation to Abuja and thanked Under-Secretary-General Voronkov for prioritizing Nigeria in its programming on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism (PCVE). He said that terrorism has had a ripple effect on global peace, displacement and rising poverty in Nigeria and emphasized that to succeed in the fight against terrorism, underlying security and development challenges that create conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism must be addressed.

H.E. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria noted that Nigeria is making significant investments in education and social security to tackle the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism.

The President and Foreign Minister reiterated Nigeria's readiness to further collaborate and cooperate with the United Nations on national and regional efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

UNOCT and Nigeria have enjoyed strong and dynamic cooperation on technical assistance for the past 10 years and the country is a beneficiary of 14 UNOCT capacity-building programmes and projects. Earlier this week, UNOCT and the Government of Nigeria [signed two Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) strengthening their partnership in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and enabling the United Nations to enhance Nigeria's counterterrorism capabilities.

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