



PRESS RELEASE

HEAD OF UNITED NATIONS COUNTER-TERRORISM OFFICE CALLS FOR SUPPORT TO AFRICAN-LED AND AFRICAN-OWNED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE GROWING TERRORISM THREAT IN AFRICA

Abuja, 24 April 2024 – The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, concluded a visit to Nigeria to participate in the High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja, on 22-23 April. Held under the overarching theme “Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism,” the meeting also featured United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed as a keynote speaker in the opening session.

Mr. Voronkov thanked the **President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, and the **Nigerian National Security Advisor, H.E. Mallam Nuhu Ribadu** for organizing this High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting, with the support of UNOCT. He also extended his appreciation to the African Union for its support to Member States in countering-terrorism in Africa.

The High-Level Meeting provided an important platform for focused discussions, exchange of experiences, and identification of practical strategies to address the evolving threat of terrorism on the continent. The meeting gathered Presidents, government Ministers, and national security advisors from 29 African Member States. In addition, it brought together representatives from regional and subregional organizations, international partners, civil society organizations, and various Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

Mr. Voronkov welcomed the outcomes of the High-Level Meeting, including support for the “Abuja Process,” an Africa-led and Africa-owned process aimed to address terrorism across the continent.

“I sincerely hope that with the leadership of African Member States and the support of international partners, we can take the momentum generated from this Meeting and translate its aspirations into more tangible and action-oriented outcomes,” he emphasized. *“Together, let us continue to work towards a safer and more secure Africa,”* he added.

In support of the outcomes of this High-Level Meeting, UNOCT, in coordination with other partners, reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen the development and implementation of dedicated packages of capacity-building assistance to support African Member States. *“A step-change in our commitment to address those complex challenges is the launch of the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa, which brings together 16 UN entities in support of 10 new multi-partner initiatives across the continent,”* **Mr. Voronkov** said. He urged all the Meeting participants to support the Appeal and join efforts in delivering collaborative, results-focused solutions.

On the margins of the Meeting, Mr. Voronkov participated in an informal dialogue with African civil society organizations, during which he stressed the vital role of civil society in advancing the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and in addressing the menace of terrorism at the grassroots level.

The Under Secretary-General also held a number of high-level bilateral meetings on the margins of the Meeting including with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, as well as with Heads of Delegation of Algeria, France, Kenya, and European Union.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo with a view to strengthen existing cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism and its nexus with transnational organized crime, through the delivery of technical assistance to the country under the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel ('CT Travel') Programme.

For more information:

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