



STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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TO
UNITED NATIONS

AT

PREPARATORY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING OF AFRICAN
MEMBER STATES ON THE 2024 AFRICAN
COUNTER-TERRORISM SUMMIT

THEME: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND
INSTITUTION BUILDING TO ADDRESS THE EVOLVING
THREAT OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA

21ST SEPTEMBER 2023,

NELSON MANDELA CONFERENCE ROOM
AU PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION

Ms. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset let me thank Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, for joining me in opening the **Ministerial-Level meeting of African Member States on the 2024 African Counter-Terrorism Summit**. I also wish to express my gratitude for his recent visit to my Office and the Nigerian National Counter Terrorism Centre, where two Memoranda of Understanding were signed. Furthermore, I would like to thank Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, for joining us in this Session.

2. I wish to convey the warm regards of President Bola Tinubu and reaffirm the nation's commitment to strengthen multilateral partnership with the United Nations, its Member States and international partners towards the effective implementation of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

3. Today's deliberations are expected to help shape and inform the agenda and set priorities as well as articulate a robust, comprehensive and practical outcome for the African Counter-Terrorism Summit on *"Strengthening regional cooperation and institution building to address the evolving threat of terrorism in Africa"* to be hosted by Nigeria in Abuja, in April 2024. I encourage all participants to engage in open and constructive dialogue, exchange ideas, and best practices. This way, we can develop a comprehensive agenda and establish priorities for the Summit to address the evolving nature of terrorism and provide strategic regional solutions to the menace.

4. Nigeria has remained committed to strengthening the rule of law to bring terrorist to justice. The Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022, enable the establishment of two critical institutions, the National Counter Terrorism Centre and the Nigerian Sanctions Committee. With partnerships from specialized UN agencies and international partners, we continue to strengthen our criminal justice provisions and judicial frameworks to secure the conviction of terrorism offenders. The hosting of this strategic event by Nigeria provides an opportunity for us to share our lessons learnt and wealth of Counter-Terrorism experience with other Member States, especially those dealing with the menace of terrorism on a daily basis.

Excellencies,

5. Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism pose a persistent and evolving threat to international peace and security. The collaborative efforts to combat terrorism must be based on extant regional strategies, coordination mechanisms, and information sharing platforms. Furthermore, it is imperative that we strengthen our regional security apparatus by enhancing intelligence capacities, improving border control measures, and investing in the training and equipping of our security forces.

6. Additionally, we must focus on building robust legal frameworks that enable effective prosecution of terrorist suspects while ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. There is also the need to strengthen our institutions to better address the root causes of terrorism. Investment in education, job creation, and community development programs will help to insulate our societies from the influence of extremist ideologies.

7. I would also like to emphasize the importance of international cooperation and partnership in our regional fight against terrorism in Africa. We therefore call upon our global partners, particularly UNOCT to provide the necessary support to strengthen our capacity to counter terrorism effectively.

8. In preparing for the Summit, we will embrace an inclusive approach, ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, including regional organizations, civil society groups, the private sector, and international partners. Their expertise and perspectives will contribute to the success of the African Counter Terrorism Summit which will produce tangible outcomes and concrete recommendations that will guide our future endeavors in the fight against terrorism.

Excellencies,

9. For terrorism to be defeated, we need to see the development of new and strengthened partnerships, both between African member states and between Africa and the rest of the international community, to tackle the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. It is in this spirit, that Nigeria and UNOCT will co-organize the African Counter Terrorism Summit.

10. Nigeria is committed in ensuring that the Summit is a success and encourage you to ensure that your leaders are present in Abuja on 23-24 April 2024. The government looks forward to welcoming you to this important event that will help shape an African-led and African-owned narrative in combating terrorism.

11. I look forward to fruitful discussions and productive outcomes during the interactive session.

12. I thank you all.