



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

By

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*AMBASSADOR/DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE*  
*PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

ON

AGENDA ITEM 108  
**MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK  
10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains a serious threat to peace and security at local, national and international levels. It is contrary to the rule of law, violates human rights and erodes democracy and freedom. Terrorism destroys much-needed physical and economic infrastructure and impedes sustainable development. It poses grave danger to territorial integrity and destabilization of States. Nigeria therefore condemns terrorism as a criminal act, committed by whomsoever, wherever and for whatsoever reason. We reaffirm our conviction that terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds and should, therefore, be combated with all the vigour and resources at our command. It is for reason that we reaffirm our condemnation of the recent terrorist attack in Bali, Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria welcomes the measures undertaken by the United Nations to combat terrorism since it reared its ugly head. The establishment of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), the 1267 Committee, the 1540 Committee and the 1566 Working Group constitutes an important milestone in our fight against terrorism. We are pleased that these efforts resulted in the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism by the General Assembly, on 13 April, 2005. It is equally interesting that the Team of Experts appointed to monitor compliance with Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) has been visiting various countries for information exchange as well as benefit from national experiences in combating terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria reiterates that in combating terrorism, adequate measures must be put in place to ensure that human rights, due process and the rule of law are not compromised. We further stress that in implementing anti-terrorism measures; the relevant Committees should adequately consult with the authorities of affected States. Also the application of such measures should be transparent and that Maximum care should be taken to ensure that such implementation do not work against national socio-economic interests. To this end, we once again call for clear guidelines for the listing and delisting of persons and entities alleged to be associated with terrorist groups.

It is our view that the efforts to fight terrorism should go hand in hand with the determination to identify and adequately address those factors upon which terrorism feeds. Some of the root causes include festering conflicts exacerbated by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and illicit arms trafficking across borders. We also believe that unemployment and pervasive poverty, particularly in developing countries also contribute to the spread of terrorism. We should, therefore, deny terrorists every opportunity to use or exploit these factors to further their causes. It is for this reasons that my delegation calls for the urgent implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the Monterrey Consensus for the financing of development and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, among others.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria continues to underscore the need for clear-cut distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggles of people for self-determination, freedom and independence, in accordance with international law. My delegation also wishes to recall the crucial role that regional cooperation plays in the fight against terrorism, particularly in the implementation of continental and international instruments. We believe that all international efforts to combat terrorism should be based on multilateral action as authorized by the Charter of the UN, international law and relevant international conventions. Nigeria remains opposed to selective and unilateral actions in violation of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman

It is our view that there is need for proper funding and staffing of the CTC and the provision of adequate technical assistance to States, which lack such capacity. In this regard, we welcome the seminars and workshops organized by the various United Nations and regional agencies to facilitate identification and compilation of best practices and strengthening of capacity of Member States.

We call on Member States to plug all loopholes through which arms used by terrorists are acquired. In this regard, although we welcome the adoption of an international instrument on tracing illicit, small arms and light weapons,

we see such as a temporary measure, pending the emergence of a more effective and definite instrument.

With regards to the call for the convening of a high-level international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, for a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism, Nigeria is of the view that this should be held only after the conclusion and adoption of the Draft Comprehensive International Convention on Terrorism. Accordingly, we urge all Member States to demonstrate the required flexibility and political will for the adoption of the instrument, during this 60<sup>th</sup> Session. We are confident that the same spirit of compromise that resulted in the recent adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism can also be mobilized for this purpose.

We note, with appreciation, that the CTC in 2004 visited some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria. Our interactions with the Team were quite fruitful. It is gratifying to note that arrangements are already concluded for the team to visit Nigeria again for a briefing and an update on the measures we have taken to combat terrorism. In this connection, I am glad to inform that a comprehensive Bill to Combat Terrorism is in an advanced stage of being enacted into law in Nigeria, among other measures.

Mr. Chairman,

No efforts should be spared in ridding our world of the scourge of terrorism. In this we should be united, cognizant that a world free of terrorism is one that will allow our States and peoples to achieve the goals of development in peace and security.

I thank you.