



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting

Abuja, Nigeria

23 April 2024

Your Excellency Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, National Security Advisor of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by congratulating His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Nigerian Government, especially the National Security Advisor, for their leadership and successful hosting of this important High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting.

The impressive participation of the Presidents of Nigeria, Ghana, Togo; several Government ministers; National Security Advisors; senior representatives of African Member States; representatives of regional and sub regional organizations; representatives of international partners; and representatives of civil society organizations, sends a strong “message of unity” on the counter-terrorism agenda in Africa, and allows for a holistic discussion and diverse viewpoints on the subject.

This gathering of African leaders was also a fitting demonstration of the strong “political will” against terrorism in the region.

Over the last two days, we held fruitful exchanges on the thematic aspects of the African counter-terrorism agenda. 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.

During these discussions, we learned about the important contributions of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Supporting African Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts and responding to their needs are among the top priorities of my Office.

It gives me hope and satisfaction that this High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting has kicked off the Abuja Process which will be guided by:

- African-led and African-owned solutions against terrorism;
- Enhanced regional and sub-regional cooperation;
- A comprehensive approach and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; and
- Finally, strengthening capacities of affected Member States by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism will continue to support the Government of Nigeria, the African Union, and regional organizations as well as all African Member States during the Abuja Process.

It is also important that international partners enhance their counter-terrorism support to African Member States. The sharing of experiences, expertise and resources is critical for the success of our common endeavors in the continent.

I would like to thank all UN entities, including the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Abuja and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, that supported my Office in the successful delivery of this event.

In closing, I once again commend the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for its hospitality and for organizing this High-Level Meeting.

Your Excellency, you have the floor.