



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

**Six Years After UNSCR 2349: Examining the Implementation of Screening, Prosecution,  
Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies for Persons Associated with Boko Haram/JAS,  
ISWAP and Other Terrorist Groups**

**21 June 2023**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to this side event to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2349 and examine our efforts to foster sustainable peace and stability in the Lake Chad Basin region, including through the implementation of national and regional screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies aimed at persons associated with Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province.

I would also like to thank the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, as well as the Lake Chad Basin Commission, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for jointly convening this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Six years ago, the Security Council adopted resolution 2349, which unanimously condemned the attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram and the Islamic State's West Africa Province.

The resolution also addressed the drivers of terrorism in the region and called upon Member States to undertake comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for persons associated with these terrorist groups.

In response, the Lake Chad Basin Commission launched the 'Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas', which has helped shape a coordinated regional approach to fulfilling these international obligations.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have also implemented the project titled “Supporting Lake Chad Basin Countries to Develop and Implement Strategies for the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of Persons Associated with Boko Haram.”

This project has raised awareness on screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration approaches, reinforced regional cooperation, and national and regional capacities. Moreover, the project has contributed to policy frameworks, including the development of the Chadian National Action Plan for the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of Persons Associated with Boko Haram, as well as a draft Memorandum of Understanding for Judiciary Cooperation between Niger and Nigeria.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite this progress, challenges persist. There is a growing need for resources and capacities to operationalize screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies and capitalize on progress achieved.

The urgent and compelling need to manage thousands of fighters, including foreign terrorist fighters and other persons associated with these groups, primarily women and children, calls for collective support to the Lake Chad Basin region.

This includes implementing effective screening and risk assessment processes, while ensuring accountability through criminal justice responses and other transitional justice mechanisms. The rehabilitation of associated persons is also of utmost importance ahead of community-based reintegration efforts.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism remains a committed and reliable partner to the Lake Chad Basin Member States.

As part of these efforts, we are working with the Government of Nigeria to co-organize an African Counter Terrorism Summit in early 2024 in Abuja, on the theme of ‘Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa.’

I look forward to working closely with you all in generating practical actions to be implemented at the international, national and local levels.

The success of counter-terrorism efforts in the Lake Chad Basin relies not only on coordinated and coherent screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration efforts in the region, but

also the consistent and long-term support of regional and international partners for a more peaceful and secure Africa.

Thank you.