



## PRESS RELEASE

### UNOCT AND NIGERIA SIGN AGREEMENTS TO DEEPEN COOPERATION ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

**ABUJA, 30 August 2023** – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Federal Republic of Nigeria signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today aimed to enhance their partnership in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. This includes initiatives to counter terrorist travel, enhance border and maritime security, and strengthen global, regional and national responses, through the promotion of dialogue and partnerships, and capacity-building activities.

The agreements were signed by **Mr. Nuhu Ribadu, National Security Adviser to the President of Nigeria** and **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**, who is currently in Nigeria for meetings with senior government officials to advance preparations for an upcoming African Counter-Terrorism Summit planned in 2024.

Thanking the Government of Nigeria for its ongoing cooperation with UNOCT, Mr. Voronkov stressed that *“Today’s event marks an important milestone in our partnerships with the Government of Nigeria at this critical time when your country is taking a leading role in regional counter-terrorism efforts.”* Highlighting the need for increased multilateral collaboration to support Africa in addressing an evolving terrorism threat on the continent, the Under-Secretary-General welcomed the MoU signing as the basis for a more robust response to combat this scourge. *“We look forward to further deepening our cooperation with Nigeria, including at the regional level”*, he said.

In a statement delivered on behalf of the National Security Adviser to the President of Nigeria, **Rear Admiral YEM Musa (Rtd), Coordinator of the National Counter Terrorism Centre of Nigeria** said *“The two MOUs we are about to sign today, will set the stage for enhanced ONSA and UNOCT collaborative and coordinated actions to disrupt and dismantle terrorist networks through increased information sharing, technological collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives on a global scale. It is also indicative of ONSA and UNOCT commitment to preventing, detecting and responding to acts of terrorism, while also safeguarding the rights and freedoms of individuals.”*

The first MoU was signed between UNOCT and Nigeria’s National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to enhance collaboration between the two entities on security and counter-terrorism initiatives, including countering terrorist travel, border and maritime security, and delivery of counter-terrorism trainings in Nigeria. This cooperation will support Nigeria in the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Commission (ECOWAS) 2020-2024 Action Plan for eradicating terrorism in the subregion.

The second MoU was signed between UNOCT and the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) in the context of the [UNOCT-led Countering Terrorist Travel Programme](#). It formalizes the existing cooperation in preventing and countering terrorist travel and serious crimes and will build Nigeria’s capacities to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences by collecting and analyzing both

API and PNR data, in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions, international standards and best practices and human rights principles

The two MoUs solidify an existing partnership and enable the United Nations to enhance Nigeria's counterterrorism capabilities. UNOCT and Nigeria have enjoyed strong and dynamic cooperation on technical assistance for over a decade and Nigeria is a beneficiary of 14 UNOCT capacity-building programmes and projects.

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