



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

No: MFA/PR/2026/155

NIGERIA CALLS FOR STRONGER AFRICAN AND GLOBAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT TERRORISM

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, reaffirmed Nigeria's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism and violent extremism through enhanced regional cooperation, strengthened international partnerships, sustainable financing, and comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies during the 1354th Virtual Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) at the Ministerial Level on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa, held on Tuesday, 21 July 2026.

During her intervention, the Honourable Minister underscored the urgent need for collective action to address the evolving terrorist threat confronting the African continent. She condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism across Africa, expressed solidarity with victims of terrorist attacks, and paid tribute to the courage and sacrifices of African security personnel engaged in the fight against terrorism.

The Honourable Minister observed that terrorist groups have become increasingly adaptive by exploiting emerging technologies, including drones and digital platforms, while relying on illicit financial networks, kidnapping for ransom, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources to sustain their operations. She stressed that the growing sophistication of terrorist organizations urgently demands coordinated, innovative, and intelligence-driven responses by African States and the international community.

Highlighting Nigeria's experience, Ambassador Odumegwu-Ojukwu stated that the country has adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that combines kinetic and non-kinetic measures. She noted that sustained operations have significantly degraded the operational capabilities of Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), restored government

authority in many affected communities, disrupted terrorist financing networks, and facilitated the de-radicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of repentant former combatants.

She further emphasised that addressing the root causes of violent extremism remains fundamental to achieving lasting peace and security. In this regard, Nigeria has continued to invest in education, critical infrastructure, youth empowerment and community resilience, while engaging traditional and religious leaders, women and young people in preventing radicalization and countering extremist narratives.

The Honourable Minister reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to regional cooperation through close collaboration with neighbouring countries and support for the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network, and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which she described as a model for regional security cooperation on the continent.

Ambassador Odumegwu-Ojukwu also endorsed the recommendations contained in the report presented to the Peace and Security Council, particularly those aimed at strengthening intelligence-sharing and operational cooperation among Member States, disrupting terrorist financing networks, enhancing the Continental Early Warning System, strengthening cybersecurity, and developing continental guidelines for the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence in counter-terrorism efforts.

While advocating stronger continental action, the Honourable Minister cautioned against narratives that portray terrorism as exclusively an African phenomenon. She noted that such characterizations risk unfairly profiling innocent Africans and exposing them to discrimination and ill-treatment at international airports and other points of entry. She reiterated that terrorism is a global menace that requires shared international responsibility and collective action.

The Honourable Minister further called on international partners to demonstrate zero tolerance for terrorism by preventing the transfer of arms, ammunition, drones, dual-use technologies and other sophisticated equipment to non-state actors. She also urged stronger international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows, recover stolen assets, and deny terrorist groups access to funding, logistics and other enablers of violence.

She stressed that sustainable progress in the fight against terrorism requires adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for African-led peace support operations. Accordingly, she called for intensified advocacy for the operationalization of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719 and its application to eligible African-led Peace Support Operations, including the Multinational Joint Task Force and the proposed ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Force.

The Honourable Minister concluded by reaffirming Nigeria's commitment to working closely with African Union Member States, regional organizations and the international community to halt the spread of terrorism across the continent. She stressed that only through unity, sustained cooperation, and collective resolve can Africa effectively defeat terrorism and violent extremism, and build a continent that is peaceful, secure and conducive to sustainable development.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Tuesday 21, July 2026**