



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixtieth session

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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by African Youth Movement, a non-governmental organization in consultative with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

### **Taking shared responsibility against terrorism and transnational organized crime**

This statement by the African Youth Movement is aimed at highlighting the Strategies adopted by Nigerian stakeholders in our avowed commitment and efforts to rid our country and continent of the recurring decimal of terrorism and all forms of transnational organized crime with a view to eliciting renewed international commitment and support to Nigeria and Africa in our quest to actualize this monumental objective.

Today more than ever, it is obvious that the threat from terrorism and other forms of Transnational organized Crime in Africa and other parts of the world is more complicated because criminal networks are more fluid and are using increasingly sophisticated tactics. Transnational Organized Crime is exploiting the interconnected nature of our modern trading, transportation, and transactional systems that move people and commerce throughout the global economy and across our borders. Countering Transnational Organized Crime today requires an integrated and comprehensive approach.

This statement hinges on a three track approach to raise international awareness about the reality of the Transnational Organized Crime threat to African and international security with the aim of galvanizing multilateral action to constrain the reach and influence of the Transnational Organized Crime; deprive them of their enabling means and infrastructure; shrink the threat Transnational Organized Crime poses to our citizens' safety, national security, and governance; and ultimately defeat the Transnational Organized Crime networks that pose the greatest threat to national and international security.

As Nigerian and African youths who appreciate the onerous task ahead of our government and the vigorous effort that is being deployed to combat terror, we wish to encourage our country and continent's international partners and allies to echo the commitment that our countries are making while joining us in building a new framework for international cooperation to protect all our citizens from the violence, harm, and exploitation wrought by terrorism and transnational organized crime.

### **Statement of world leaders on Boko Haram terrorists**

Boko Haram is more than a domestic terrorist group. The group is a threat to regional peace and security. This much was affirmed by the Special Summit on Security in Nigeria, hosted by President Françoise Hollande in Paris in May 2014.

President Obama has described Boko Haram "as one of the most dangerous regional terrorist organizations in the world." Boko Haram kills anyone irrespective of gender, religion, and age. It destroys everything in its sight. Since 2009, this terrorist group has killed over 12,000 Nigerians, and continues to maim many more as well as burn and raze down communities, places of worship, public institutions, and infrastructure.

### **On transnational organized crime**

Transnational organized crime refers to those self-perpetuating associations of individuals who operate transnationally for the purpose of obtaining power, influence, monetary and/or commercial gains, wholly or in part by illegal means, while protecting their activities through a pattern of corruption and/or violence, or while protecting their illegal activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of transnational commerce or communication mechanisms.

The security problems faced by the countries of Africa are transnational in scope. They, therefore, cannot be solved by one single country. The terrorism challenge in particular has posed gaps in individual nation's capacities to deal with new complex security challenges. Because terrorism, piracy, and transnational organized crimes are global in scope, they will require regional and international collaboration to combat.

The influx of migrants to the shores of Europe is now seen as a global pandemic eliciting reinforced joint cross border response led by France and the United Kingdom. Containing Boko Haram is a time bomb already exploding in our faces requiring urgent global action.

### **What we must do**

Combating illicit financial flows, the role of the African Development Bank, Central Bank of Nigeria and other institutions in breaking the economic power of terrorists, transnational criminal networks and protecting the African and Nigerian financial system from transnational organized crime penetration and abuse.

Synopsis: Transnational organized crime networks — using corruption, bribery, fraud, and violence — have the capacity to disrupt economic activity and put legitimate businesses at a distinct competitive disadvantage. In actualizing Nigeria's objective of combating terrorism successfully, the role of the Central Bank of Nigeria cannot be overemphasized especially in the area of terror financing.

The Central Bank of Nigeria is expected to brief the global community of its strategies and efforts targeted at attacking the financial underpinnings of the top transnational criminals; stripping them of their illicit wealth; severing their access to the financial system; exposing their criminal activities hidden behind legitimate fronts; and protecting strategic markets and the Nigerian financial system.

### **The Nigerian war on terrorism; building international consensus, multilateral cooperation, and public-private partnerships to defeat transnational organized crime**

Synopsis: Sustainable progress against Terrorism and transnational organized crime requires both political commitment and effective law enforcement and criminal justice capacities on a worldwide basis. Transnational organized crime threatens the security and well-being of people around the world and jeopardizes the functioning of the global economy. Not all of these threats are equally visible to international audiences. Nigeria and Africa therefore needs the will to reach directly more to the international community and the general public to convey that both nations and individuals share a common enemy in transnational organized crime and have a common stake in addressing this threat.

Showcasing Nigeria's effort in combating terrorism and transnational organized crime through the building of new partnerships — with industry, finance, academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the international community — to combat transnational organized crime networks that operate in the illicit and licit worlds.

**Disrupting human and drug trafficking and its facilitation of terrorism and other transnational threats in Nigeria and Africa; the role of the national drug law enforcement agency**

Synopsis: In recent years, new developments in technology and communications equipment have enabled terrorists and transnational organized crime networks involved in human/drug trafficking and other illicit activities to plan, coordinate, and perpetrate their schemes with increased mobility and anonymity. As a result, many transnational criminal groups have developed into versatile, loose networks that cooperate intermittently but maintain their independence.

They operate worldwide and employ sophisticated technology and financial savvy. These criminal networks bribe government officials and take advantage of weak border security and ill-equipped law enforcement to facilitate their operations. Along with emerging trafficking routes, such as the transit route through West Africa to Europe, criminal networks are spreading corruption and undermining fledgling democratic institutions. Due to the enormous profits associated with human/drug trafficking, the illegal trade is also a way to finance other transnational criminal and terrorist activities.

To diminish these threats, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency must partner with the Federal Government of Nigeria and other law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally to reduce the global supply of and demand for illegal drugs, sex slaves, human slaves, cheap labour agents especially in Africa and Nigeria thereby denying funding to terrorism and other transnational organized crime networks.

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