

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Cooperation among Member States remains indispensable to address the threat posed by Da'esh. For this reason, the Office of Counter-Terrorism supported the Government of Nigeria in organizing the High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja in April.

I welcome the outcomes reflected in the Abuja Declaration and look forward to working closely with Member States in supporting the agreed actions. This includes the upgrade of the Nigerian National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Abuja to a Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre that will cover the Sahel and West Africa.

Given the complexity of the threat in the region, my Office is committed to supporting the Centre's initiative to address the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Looking ahead, the Office of Counter-Terrorism is jointly organizing with the Governments of Tajikistan and Kuwait, the Dushanbe High-Level Process Conference in Kuwait City in November. This event will be the fourth iteration of the Dushanbe Process and is intended to broaden the scope and impact of regional counter-terrorism cooperation well beyond Central Asia.