

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Positions for the Security Council

I. Designing Effective Targeted Sanctions

“The implementation of [smart sanctions] would surely encourage the tailoring of sanctions specifically to protect the majority of the populace from economic hardships.” – Ibrahim Gambari, former Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/53/PV.43).

The Federal Republic of Nigeria supports the use of targeted sanctions as an alternative to comprehensive sanctions to hold leaders responsible while avoiding spillover effects into innocent member states. However, Nigeria believes that targeted sanctions should only be used as a measure of last resort after all other means of peaceful settlement have been exhausted, as clearly stated in GA/L/3438 (2012).

Nigeria has traditionally pushed for the implementation of smart sanctions over other coercive measures. General sanctions often result in economic and social deprivation for innocent citizens both in the target state and in the neighboring countries. On the contrary, smart sanctions are designed to focus their impact on a segment of society or political leaders while minimizing collateral damage and economic hardships to the country’s population, as well as other countries. In May 2014, weeks after the kidnapping of nearly 300 schoolgirls from the northeast Borno state, Nigeria requested the UN Security Council to sanction Boko Haram, the terrorist group responsible for the abduction and widespread violence in the north of the country. On May 22, 2014, one of the three UN Security Council committees dealing with counter-terrorism, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, approved targeted sanctions against Boko Haram including an arms embargo, a travel ban, and asset freeze, under QE.B.138.14 (2014). Nigeria believes that these targeted sanctions can send a powerful signal to the perpetrators and contribute to greater compliance with the Security Council’s agenda on the role and protection of children during armed conflicts.

In the implementation of targeted sanctions, Nigeria supports the establishment of a mechanism for evaluating the impact of these sanctions on third States. All UN members should ensure that sanctions are properly targeted at the decision-makers and the responsible leadership, rather than at the general population of the target countries. Members should also make adequate provisions to protect innocent civilians, who otherwise would suffer disproportionately from the effect of sanctions. Thirdly, member states should find a way of compensating the neighboring countries, which often suffer the consequences of the enforcement of sanctions at great expense to their own domestic economies and stability. In order to increase the efficacy of targeted sanctions, Nigeria suggests strengthening the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee established by UNSCR 1373 (2001), and equipping it with clear mandates and instructions, as well as a standard framework in order to guarantee consistency among all UN Sanctions Committees. Independent expert panels and monitoring mechanisms have already been established in order to provide periodic reassessment of the measures and their unintended effects on the civilian population and on third countries; Nigeria advocates improving their capacity through stronger administrative and budgetary support. Finally, effective implementation of the sanctions requires the collaboration with member states and regional organizations such as ECOWAS, which should undertake domestic investigations against citizens alleged by expert panel reports to have been violating UN sanctions regimes.

II. The situation in Central African Republic

“The situation in CAR demands our collective resolve to help that sister country to win the peace and embark on national reconciliation and re-establish critical government infrastructure” – Nurudeen Mohammed, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.¹

Nigeria regards the situation in Central African Republic with concern. Nigeria believes in the collective Responsibility to Protect, as established in A/RES/60/1 (2005) para. 138-140, and advocates a rapid response in order to prevent further atrocities against the people of CAR. Nigeria also recognizes the significant regional impact of the situation in CAR and fears potential spillover into neighboring countries. When the struggle for power between the Muslim Séléka and the Christian Anti-Balaka escalated into widespread ethnic violence, Nigeria

¹ “Central African Republic: Nigeria pledges \$1.5 million to support AU mission.” *Premium Times Nigeria*, February 22, 2014. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/154440-central-african-republic-nigeria-pledges-1-5-million-support-au-mission.html> (October 26, 2014).

immediately evacuated 1,300 of its citizens from CAR. In February 2014, when the African Union supplied troops in order to contain the violence, Nigeria pledged \$1.5million in support of the mission.

A robust and timely intervention to contain violence in CAR is of vital importance. Nigeria strongly believes that the international community should take concrete measures to assist the CAR State to put an end to the abuses, while at the same time protecting the civilian populations, as stated in A/HRC/24/59 (2013). Nigeria fears that the Séléka elements, if not stopped, may be likely to gravitate toward Boko Haram, which looks at the disgruntled Muslims in CAR as potential allies, thus posing a threat to Central and Western African sub-regions. For this reason, Nigeria spearheaded the mandate of the African Union to protect civilians in the area with MISCA under S/RES/2127 (2013). Nigeria also supported the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA in September 2014 following the adoption of S/RES/2149 (2014), as it recognized the importance of peacekeeping and an enhanced international presence in the area. Nigeria expects that MINUSCA will fulfill its mandate to protect civilians and human rights and to support accountability measures.

Beyond military intervention, Nigeria encourages a non-violent approach to the solution of the conflict, and is prepared to offer technical assistance to CAR for post-conflict reconstruction and development. Séléka rebels and the Anti-Balaka militia should negotiate their differences and rebuild trust in each other in the interest of peace and stability, and the CAR citizens should rally behind the Interim President Catherine Samba-Panza. Nigeria reiterates what was stated in S/RES/2127 (2013) and recognizes that the Transitional Authority's primary responsibility is to protect the population of CAR. The Transitional Government should lead an inclusive and comprehensive political dialogue and national reconciliation process; particular attention should be given to the rebuilding of effective State institutions in order to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections in February 2015, as stated in SC/11562 (2014). Finally, Nigeria applauds the Transitional Government's decision to refer the situation in the country to the International Criminal Court, and it supports the investigation led by ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda into the alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the Séléka rebels and the Anti-Balaka militia.

III. The Threat of Cyber Warfare

"A cybersecurity program is inescapable to complement the great progress [achieved] by the Government [to] secure and protect the underlying ICT infrastructures and boost consumer confidence." – Basil Udotai, former Cybersecurity Director at the office of Nigeria's National Security Adviser.²

Nigeria and its Sahel region neighbors are ripe for exploitation as a cyber-warfare hub. In August 2012, Boko Haram allegedly hacked the personnel records databases of Nigeria's secret service. This attack represented a change in tactics for a group that up to that point employed a low-tech strategy. Boko Haram's incorporation of cyber-attacks in its arsenal bears the mark of training by Al Qaeda personnel. Perpetrators of cyber warfare can use the modern fiber-optic information communication infrastructure in Nigeria and the 2010 West Africa cable system to boost their technology skills, train recruits, and execute their attacks.

Nigeria is especially concerned with the negative effects of cybercrime on its economy. In 2003, President Obasanjo set up a committee to investigate cybersecurity issues including website cloning, phishing, e-commerce fraud, and credit card fraud. The National Cybersecurity Initiative (NCI) raised awareness on cybercrime, encouraged new legislation to criminalize certain cyber activities (with the Draft Bill on Computer Security and Critical Information Infrastructure), and strengthened Nigeria's institutional capacity to combat cybercrime. In 2004, the Nigerian Cybercrime Working Group (NCWG) was established in order to implement the recommendations of the NCI within two years. In December 2006, a Directorate for Cybersecurity (DfC), was created as a permanent autonomous body within the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) to take over the uncompleted projects of the NCWG, with the mandate to develop and implement a National Cybersecurity Policy for Nigeria.

Nigeria recognizes that cyber warfare is a form of force, and that international law and the UN Charter are fully applicable to state behavior in cyberspace. However, beyond the efforts of single government agencies, Nigeria believes that cyber warfare is a global issue that can only be solved through global partnership involving governments, security agencies, the private sector, and internet users. For this reason, Nigeria looks forward to the opportunity of collaborating with other member states in order to explore possible cooperative measures to address this threat. In particular, drawing upon A/68/98 (2013), Nigeria hopes to establish confidence-building measures among states to exchange views and information on national policies and best practices with regard to cybersecurity.

² Udotai, Basil. 2008. *National Cybersecurity Strategies: Case Study–Nigeria*. Presentation at the Africa Regional Conference on Cybersecurity, Yamousoukro, 17–20 November 2008.