

UK-Nigeria Security and Defence Partnership Inaugural Dialogue Communique

Introduction

The National Security Advisors of the United Kingdom and Nigeria hosted the inaugural dialogue in support of our Security and Defence Partnership between 31 January and 2 February 2022, in London. Defence Staff Talks and a cross-government forum on Human Rights took place in parallel.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria enjoy a deep and long-standing security and defence relationship, underpinned by our shared history, mutual trust and shared Commonwealth principles of democratic governance and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as a shared desire to support regional and international peace and security.

The Governments of both countries affirm our commitment to deepen our partnership in the face of complex and evolving global threats that do not respect international borders including terrorism, conflict, human trafficking, serious and organised crimes, drug trafficking, cyber-crime and piracy.

Through the dialogue, the United Kingdom and Nigeria agreed to enhance our existing cooperation in the following areas: civilian policing; approaches to stabilisation including civilian-led security and civil-military co-operation; human rights; women and youth, peace and security; defence co-operation and maritime security; serious and organised crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking and border security; and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria agreed to embed a mutual accountability approach to our cooperation, whereby we both agree to deliver on our commitments to each other, and to work in the spirit of partnership.

Civilian policing

The United Kingdom and Nigeria affirm the importance of the Nigerian police's role as the primary security actor responsible for domestic law enforcement, for keeping the peace and ensuring a peaceful society.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria agree on the importance of police reform in Nigeria. In this regard, Nigeria affirms its commitment to implement the Police Act 2020 and Presidential Roadmap on Police reform, which includes provisions to strengthen human rights measures and accountability and

responsive policing. In recognition of the importance of effective, accountable and responsive civilian policing to ensuring the safety of Nigeria's citizens, the United Kingdom commits to provide a package of assistance in support of policing reform in Nigeria, which will include technical assistance, training and advice, and to explore potential to support models of post-conflict policing in conflict-affected areas.

Approaches to Stabilisation including civilian-led security and civil-military co-operation

The United Kingdom and Nigeria reaffirm their shared commitment to a Nigerian-led and conditions-based transition to civilian security in North East Nigeria. The United Kingdom and Nigeria recognise the importance of enhanced civil-military cooperation and a multi-faceted stabilisation approach to the realisation of this transition to address conflict and foster sustainable peace and security. The United Kingdom commits to continue its support for the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilisation Facility's work to improve civil-military cooperation in North East Nigeria and the wider Lake Chad Basin region, including through the provision of expert assistance. The United Kingdom also commits to continue its support for community-led security and peacebuilding in North East Nigeria. The United Kingdom and Nigeria recognise the humanitarian impact of the conflict in North East Nigeria, and agree on the importance of protecting civilians, including through the safe, voluntary and sustainable relocation and resettlement of internally displaced people.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the Nigerian Armed Forces in the North East as part of a civilian-led, integrated and whole-of-government Nigerian response in the North-East and other conflict-affected regions. The United Kingdom and Nigeria agree to work together in support of Nigeria's efforts to institutionalise integrated stabilisation, peacebuilding and civil-military cooperation within Nigeria's planning and response.

Human Rights

The United Kingdom and Nigeria reiterate our shared understanding and commitment to protecting human rights for all, including victims of conflict. The UK and Nigeria agree that respect for, and compliance with, human rights and international humanitarian law is a prerequisite for deeper collaboration between our security and defence institutions.

The UK and Nigeria recognise the disproportionate impact of conflict on children and acknowledge the handing over of thousands of affected children to UNICEF and other civil authorities in conflict zones, as part of Nigeria's commitment to protect child victims of conflict. The UK welcomes Nigeria's continued efforts to formalise the handover protocol of children involved in conflicts. The United Kingdom looks forward to the prompt formalising of the handover protocol and will explore opportunities to support Nigeria in its implementation.

The United Kingdom welcomes Nigeria's commitment to sustain improvements in the human rights standards and accountability of the Nigerian military and police. The United Kingdom welcomes Nigeria's efforts to realise this commitment, including through continued and enhanced understanding of human rights as part of its professional training for all of its security sector, publication of the military's first Gender Policy for the Armed Forces, and sharing of human rights data. The United Kingdom commits to continue providing training in support of Nigeria's commitment in this area. This will include training for the Nigerian military on International Humanitarian Law, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and the protection of civilians. This will also include training on human rights, and sexual and gender-based violence for the Police in North East Nigeria.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria recognise the importance of an efficient, fair and effective justice system for victims of conflict. Nigeria commits to develop and implement a transitional justice framework, to prioritise the implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act across States. Nigeria commits to take steps to progress cases promptly, including trials of those accused of terrorism offences, to provide justice for victims. The United Kingdom offers to share technical advice and experience, in support of these commitments.

Women and Youth, Peace and Security

The United Kingdom and Nigeria affirm our shared commitment to the Women and Youth, Peace and Security agendas, recognising the crucial role of women and youth in achieving sustainable peace. The United Kingdom and Nigeria commit to the implementation of the United Kingdom's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and Nigeria's National Action Plan on Women and Youth, Peace and Security, and agree to collaborate and share best practice on implementation.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria also recognise the importance of taking into account gender perspectives during security operations; the United Kingdom

commits to support Nigeria's efforts in this regard, including through provision of training and the deployment of specialist advisors.

Defence cooperation

The United Kingdom and Nigeria celebrate our close and long-standing defence partnership. The United Kingdom reaffirms its support for long-term defence modernisation and transformation in Nigeria, and, in support, offers a refreshed package of leadership training for Nigerian military training institutions and the continuation of a training offer which builds understanding of international human rights and international humanitarian law. The United Kingdom and Nigeria agree to explore future cooperation between the UK Armed Forces and Nigeria's Defence Special Operations Force, to build Nigerian capacity to respond to the range of security challenges it faces effectively and in a human rights compliant way. The United Kingdom and Nigeria reaffirm our commitment to countering terrorism in Nigeria, including providing agreed upon necessary training, and capacity building support to Nigeria in her efforts to address terrorist and other insurgent forces in the North East region of Nigeria.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria affirm our commitment to cooperate on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria reiterates its commitment to deter, disrupt and prosecute maritime crime (including piracy and armed robbery against ships) through maritime security operations at sea, and to actively participate in the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea, to this end. The United Kingdom offers support to build Nigeria's maritime capabilities, to continue supporting both the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum/SHADE mechanism and the Yaoundé Code of Conduct framework, and to collaborate with Nigerian on enhancing port security.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria reaffirm our ambition to develop our relationship on defence sales and commit to work together to realise this ambition.

Serious and Organised Crimes

The United Kingdom and Nigeria commit to strengthen the already extensive collaboration between our law enforcement agencies to counter the global threat of Serious and Organised Crimes. In particular, the United Kingdom commits to work with Nigeria through the delivery of a new Prevent Pilot programme to address the drivers and enablers of Serious and Organised Crime.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria affirm our shared objective to reduce kidnaps in Nigeria, and commit to further our cooperation on assessing issues of kidnapping. To this end, the United Kingdom commits to provide training and support through the delivery of kidnapping management and negotiation courses, as well as sponsoring a National Kidnap Conference in Nigeria. The United Kingdom and Nigeria commit to work together to create a fusion cell of all relevant agencies working on kidnaps.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria recognise that although our countries face different border challenges, there is much to be learned from each other. We commit to strengthening our law enforcement collaboration to protect our borders and strive to mitigate the corrupt practices which undermine them. In addition, the United Kingdom and Nigeria both recognise the heinous nature of human trafficking and commit to continue to work together to tackle it and better support its victims.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria recognise the harmful impact that illicit financial flows have on both our countries. We commit to continue to work in partnership to tackle illicit financial flows and to continue to strengthen our cooperation on asset return, while working together to raise awareness on the impact of illicit financial flows.

Countering terrorism and violent extremism

The United Kingdom and Nigeria reaffirm our commitment to work together to respond to the shared threat of terrorism. In support of this commitment the United Kingdom offers to share our experience of delivering a multi-agency approach in response to terrorist incidents. The United Kingdom also offers to share insight on terrorist financing, trans-border movements and the illegal movement of small arms and light weapons.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria commit to continue working together in support of an integrated strategy that addresses underlying drivers and vulnerabilities to violent extremism, as well as transparent, comprehensive and human rights compliant defection, demobilisation, disengagement and de-radicalisation and reintegration (4DR) processes, which provide a genuine pathway for members of violent extremist organisations (VEOs) to defect and reintegrate into their communities.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria celebrate our close work on aviation security and the steps already taken to make travel between our countries more secure. The United Kingdom pledges to continue offering support and training to help

maintain progress in this area, and reiterates our commitment to continue our close and communicative relationship in this area. The United Kingdom welcomes Nigeria's commitment to publish its Crisis Management Doctrine within the next year, and commits to continue working with Nigeria in implementing this. The UK reaffirms our offer to support completion of the National Risk Register through the Emergency Planning College and offers to support Nigeria to refine their counter-terrorism crisis response preparations.

Implementation

The United Kingdom and Nigeria celebrate, through the inaugural dialogue in support of our Security and Defence partnership, the deep and extensive nature of our collaboration on security and defence issues.

The United Kingdom and Nigeria commit to review progress against our commitments, and to agree future cooperation at the next Security and Defence dialogue, which we will aim to hold in the first quarter of 2023. This dialogue will once again be supported by Defence Staff Talks and a Human Rights Forum, and will involve all relevant ministries, departments and agencies from both Governments.

National Security Advisor

United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

National Security Advisor

Federal Government of Nigeria