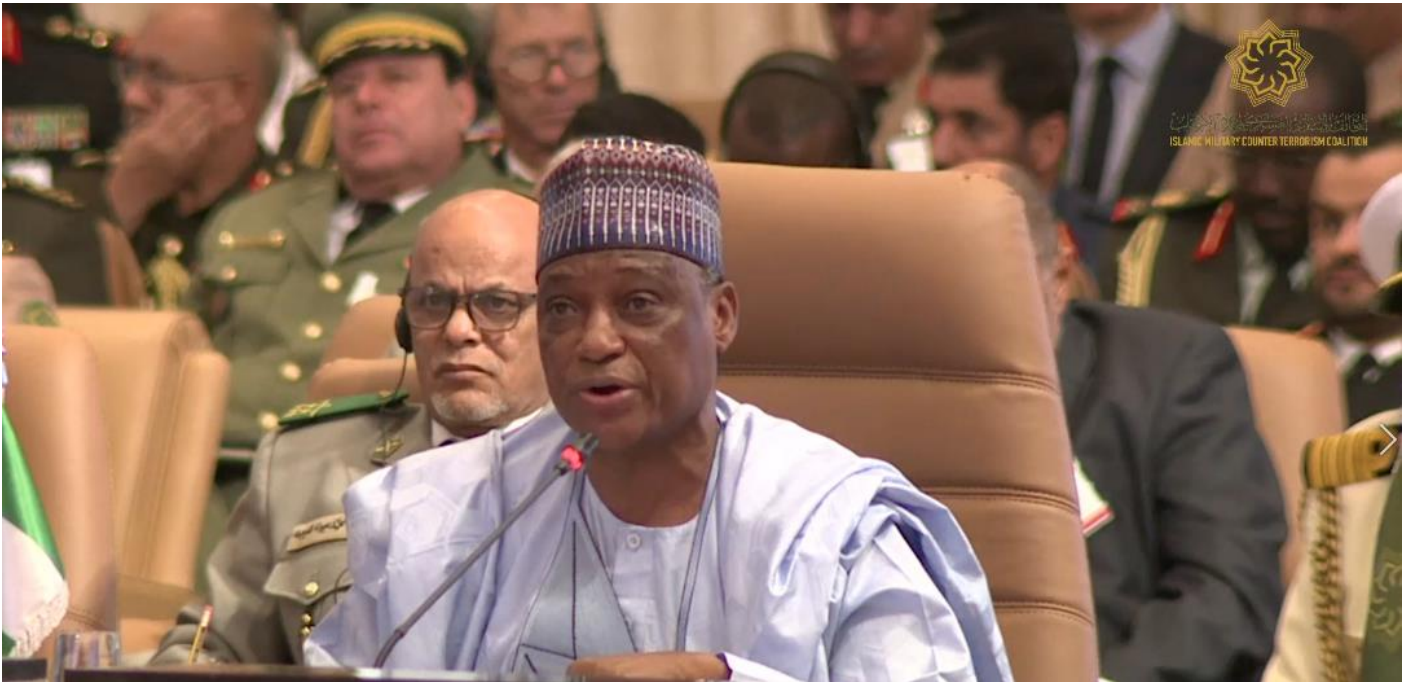


2017

Inaugural Meeting of the IMCTC
Ministers of Defense Council



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



Federal Republic of Nigeria

Our host your Royal Highness

It is my pleasure to be here once again to attend yet another meeting of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I want to thank his Royal Highness His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz al Saud the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, and my brother His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed, the Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense for inviting my country to this very important meeting.

I bring to you warm greetings from our noble leader President Muhammadu Buhari, Commander of Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the good people of Nigeria. The happenings across countries and nations prompted the need to partner together across borders, across regions, and across religious boundaries, cannot be over emphasized considering the inner most security challenges the world is facing today. Nigeria is ready to collaborate with other nations with similar experiences so that together we can defeat a common monster, terrorism. In this regard Nigeria has already approved the participation of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition also has agreed to deploy troops to this coalition with a number of star officers to be deployed at the headquarters of the Coalition her in Riyadh.

Accordingly, my brothers, as you are aware Nigeria has made remarkable progress in the war against insurgency and terrorism. Since the conception of this present administration about two and a half years ago the violence of Boko Haram has been contained with dissemination and incapacitation of the terrorist group across the

region this was achieved through a regional effort which Nigeria initiated.

Your Royal Highnesses and Excellences, the initiative of Nigeria towards bringing the Lake Chad Basin Commission countries Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Cameroon, with Benin Republics together has yielded a positive result. So far, the Boko Haram terrorists have been weakened and lack the capacity to carry massive attacks like before, rather they resort suicide bombings and quick attacks using small children and women.

As a nation, we need to introduce programs and policies that will address the issue of poverty in Africa so that the ability of terrorists to recruit using wrong religious ideologies can be weakened. We also need to intensify intelligence gathering and sharing mechanism among the Member nations.

Your Excellences, Nigeria is a global flare and we appreciate the cooperation of other nations and we will continue to engage with friendly regional groupings to ensure global peace and security, which these groups intend to pursue.

Finally, let me use this opportunity to affirm your Excellency, to consider a humanitarian assistance program for the north-eastern part of my country for areas affected by this incidence. This is in view of the number of internally displaced persons which is increasing due to the number of people rescued and over 200,000 including 106 locals so far, therefore there is a need to assist the over 3 million internally displaced and need to rebuild their homes, and their business is so that they can go to their normal business.

Before I end my intervention let me use this opportunity to thank the Kingdom of Jordan who donated a large assortment of military

hardware to the Armed Forces of Nigeria. This gesture will no doubt enhance the effort of Nigeria towards achieving peace and security in the country and beyond.

I want to once again thank His Royal Majesty for the invitation and the warm reception, I wish the summit a successful deliberation wassalam alaykum warahmatullah talla wa barakatuh.

I thank you most sincerely and God blesses all.