

## Security Council Open Debate on Threats to International Peace and Security Terrorism and Cross-Border Crime December 2014, Security Council Chamber

*Statement by Mr. Boureima, Permanent Mission of Niger to the United Nations.*

I am taking the floor on behalf of the four States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Chadian presidency of the Security Council for the month of December 2014 for having convened this important open debate on terrorism and cross-border crime, under the agenda of threats against international peace and security, in general, and those relating to terrorism and cross-border crime, in particular. We thank Mr. Jeffrey Feldman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his briefing on the very informative report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations system to help States and subregional and regional entities in Africa in fighting terrorism (S/2014/9), as well as Ambassador Tété António, Permanent Observer of the African Union, for his comprehensive briefing.

The presence among us today of high-level representatives, including the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Chad, Nigeria, Luxembourg and Libya, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Argentina and the Director General for Foreign Policy of Chile, is eloquent testimony of the importance of the topic under discussion as well as of the need to take appropriate action. As made clear in the concept note (S/2014/869, annex) usefully provided by the Chadian presidency to the participants in today's debate and the report of the Secretary-General, there can be no doubt that terrorism and cross-border crime are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Therefore, the connection between the two phenomena is not without negative consequences on subregional, regional and international conflict-prevention and resolution efforts, including those of the Security Council as the body primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. This also raises the issue, as the concept note rightly underscores, of determining whether the tools at the Security Council's disposal to achieve its objectives remain appropriate for the situation on the ground.

In this regard, the States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin — whose populations have for several years suffered serious and frequent attacks against peace and security, including acts of terrorism — believe that, while we appreciate the multifaceted support provided to our efforts by bilateral and multilateral partners alike, it would be very desirable to carry out an in-depth analysis of the situation. This would allow a more appropriate strategy to be designed. Such reflection is all the more needed now that the United Nations itself is preparing to review its peacekeeping operations in 2015 so as to adapt them to current realities. To that end, it has already put in place a High-level Panel, chaired by Mr. José Ramos-Horta, former President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Peace Laureate. Furthermore, the concept note prepared for this debate contains elements that can serve as paths to follow.

We fully endorse the arguments put forward by the presidency in the concept note, according to which cross-border organized crime has enlarged the field of operation of terrorist groups to the detriment of the capacities and authority of the States in which they

operate, seriously inhibiting conflict resolution efforts because they are often found in troubled areas. In the region covered by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin, the terrorist activities of Boko Haram, probably in connection with other similar groups, are not only undermining peace and security throughout the entire region and beyond by expanding their activities, but are also making serious inroads into the very stability of the countries of the region. Indeed, in addition to the horrific abductions of 300 young students from Chibok, Boko Haram has also caused thousands of people, especially women and children, to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries. The humanitarian situation created as a result cries out to our collective conscience and, given the urgency of the situation, cannot be allowed to continue.

To that end, the States members of the Lake Chad Basin and Benin appeal to the entire international community, particularly the Security Council, for a response commensurate the threat to the subregion from the conjunction of the phenomena of terrorism and transnational organized crime, so that this threat may be forever halted and eradicated from the region. Certainly, the partners at the Paris conference on security in Nigeria, held in May, and at the Follow-up Ministerial Conference on Security in Nigeria, held in London in June, expressed their solidarity and pledged assistance to the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin, which have since decided to pool their efforts. Since then, they have taken significant measures to create a centralized intelligence unit and a multinational joint special forces unit that have yet to be made operational.