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NATIONAL SECURITY MONITOR

...Building Public Trust, Strengthening National Cohesion and Advancing National Security.

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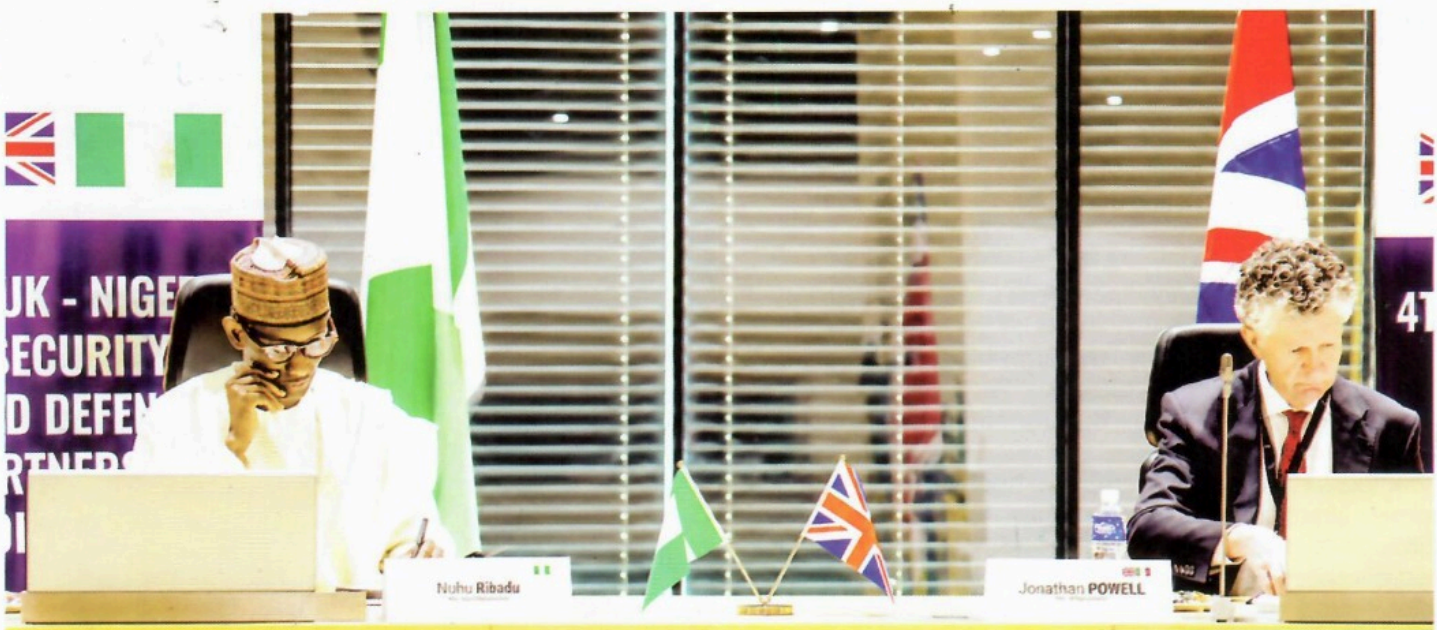

4th UK-Nigeria Security and Defence Partnership Dialogue

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SDP4 and the Future of UK–Nigeria Security Cooperation

The 4th United Kingdom–Nigeria Security and Defence Partnership Dialogue (SDP4), held in Abuja from 22–24 June 2026, marked another important milestone in bilateral security relationship between Nigeria and the UK towards addressing existing and emerging shared security threats. More than a diplomatic engagement, SDP4 reflects a mature and evolving partnership built on mutual trust, shared interests and a common commitment to peace, security and prosperity.

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The Oyo Rescue and Nigeria's Emerging Security Doctrine

- By Crispin Oduobuk

The announcement on 10 July 2026 that 39 pupils and seven teachers abducted from schools in Oriire Local Government Area of Oyo State had regained their freedom was an inspiring moment. After 56 days of fear, uncertainty, and prayers, the children were finally coming home.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

It gives me great pleasure to present the inaugural edition of The National Security Monitor, the official monthly strategic publication of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA). National security today extends far beyond the traditional responsibilities of defence and security institutions. It encompasses economic stability, cyber resilience, public safety, information integrity, critical infrastructure protection, environmental security, and the active participation of citizens in safeguarding our nation.

In an increasingly interconnected and rapidly evolving security environment, timely, credible and strategic communication has become an indispensable component of effective national security management.

The National Security Monitor has been established to provide an authoritative platform for informing Nigerians about national security priorities, emerging challenges, policy initiatives, institutional reforms and collective achievements.

It reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability and responsible public engagement, while recognising that certain operational matters must remain confidential in the interest of national security.

This publication is founded on the belief that security is a shared responsibility. Government alone cannot achieve the outcomes we seek. Success requires the cooperation of communities, civil society, the media, academia, the private sector, development partners and every patriotic Nigerian. Through accurate information and informed analysis, we aim to strengthen public understanding, counter misinformation and disinformation, build trust in our institutions and encourage meaningful citizen participation.

As the coordinating office for Nigeria's national security architecture, ONSA remains committed to strengthening inter-agency collaboration, promoting strategic partnerships and advancing innovative solutions to the complex challenges facing our country.

I invite you to engage with this publication, share your feedback and join us in advancing our shared vision of a peaceful, secure, united and prosperous Nigeria.

Nuhu Ribadu
National Security Adviser
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Cybersecurity Watch: Staying Safe in an Increasingly Digital World

As Nigeria continues to embrace digital technologies for communication, commerce, governance and innovation, cybersecurity remains a critical component of national security. Cybercriminals are constantly developing new methods to exploit vulnerabilities, target individuals and organisations, and disrupt essential services.

Emerging Threats

Recent trends indicate a rise in:

- Phishing emails and fraudulent messages designed to steal personal information and financial data.
- Business Email Compromise (BEC) schemes targeting public and private institutions.
- Ransomware attacks that encrypt data and demand payment for its release.
- Identity theft and account hijacking through compromised passwords.
- AI-enabled scams using manipulated audio, images and videos to deceive victims.

Cyber Safety Tips

To protect yourself and your organisation:

- Use strong, unique passwords for all online accounts.
- Enable multi-factor authentication wherever available.
- Avoid clicking suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.
- Regularly update devices, software and security applications.
- Verify requests for financial transactions or sensitive information through trusted channels.
- Back up important data regularly.

Beware of AI-Generated Fraud

Advances in artificial intelligence have made it easier for criminals to create convincing fake messages, voice recordings and videos. Always verify unexpected requests, especially those involving money, confidential information or urgent action.

Shared Responsibility

Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility. Citizens, businesses, educational institutions and government agencies must work together to promote cyber hygiene, protect critical information and strengthen Nigeria's digital resilience.

Report Cyber Incidents

Suspicious cyber activities, online fraud and cyberattacks should be reported through the appropriate law enforcement and cybersecurity channels.

Stay Alert. Stay Secure. Stay Resilient.

The Oyo Rescue and Nigeria's Emerging Security Doctrine

(continued from cover page)

It was an operation worthy of commendation. Acting on painstaking intelligence, personnel of the Nigerian Army, the Nigeria Police Force, and the Department of State Services tracked the abductors, rescued the victims, neutralised at least nine kidnappers, and arrested eight others.

For many Nigerians, that is where the story ends. It should not.

> ***...behind every successful rescue lies an invisible ecosystem of institutions.***

The rescue deserves to be remembered not only because 46 Nigerians returned alive, but because it offers one of the clearest demonstrations yet of the security philosophy that the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, has sought to institutionalise since assuming office. Security, after all, is rarely won in the final assault. More often, it is won in the days and weeks before that moment—through intelligence patiently gathered, institutions working as one, and difficult decisions taken without the benefit of public applause.

The Oyo operation illustrates that principle.

When the abduction occurred, public anxiety was understandable. Parents wanted immediate action. Citizens demanded swift results. Yet the circumstances confronting security agencies were exceptionally delicate. As revealed by the Minister of Defence, General Christopher Musa (Rtd), the kidnappers had threatened to execute every child if security personnel attempted a direct assault on their hideout. They demanded the release of some of their commanders already in military custody. To demonstrate their brutality, they murdered teacher Michael Oyedokun and circulated footage of the killing as psychological warfare.

In such circumstances, speed alone is not strategy. A dramatic raid might have produced headlines. It could also have produced dozens of small coffins. Instead, the government chose the harder path. Within days of the abduction, the National Security Adviser led a high-level federal delegation to Ogbomoso alongside the Chief of Staff to the President, the Inspector-General of Police, and the Minister of Defence.

The message was clear: every available instrument of the Nigerian state would be deployed through a carefully coordinated combination of kinetic and non-kinetic measures until every hostage returned safely.

That commitment required more than courage. It required discipline.

Behind every successful rescue lies an invisible ecosystem of institutions. Intelligence must be collected, analysed, and shared. Operational units must trust one another. Political authorities must resist the temptation to prioritise dramatic gestures over calculated outcomes. Decisions must be coordinated across multiple chains of command, often under intense public pressure.

This institutional culture is precisely what the National Security Adviser has attempted to strengthen. Modern security threats cannot be defeated by agencies working in isolation. Terrorism, kidnapping, organised crime, cybercrime, and cross-border criminal networks operate as interconnected ecosystems. Responding effectively demands intelligence, technology, financial tracking, community engagement, and sustained inter-agency cooperation.

The Oyo rescue demonstrates what becomes possible when those institutional walls begin to disappear.

Critics will understandably ask why it took 56 days. The question is legitimate. The answer, however, lies in what Nigerians witnessed on 10 July—46 hostages returned alive. Measured against that outcome, patience was not indecision. It was strategy.

The role of the National Security Adviser is often misunderstood. The office was never designed to command soldiers in the field. Its comparative advantage lies elsewhere. It exists to ensure that intelligence informs operations, that agencies pursue common objectives rather than competing mandates, and that the machinery of national security functions as a single, integrated system.

The Oyo operation demonstrates the value of that model. The Armed Forces, Nigeria Police, DSS, and other law enforcement, security, and intelligence agencies provided investigative and operational capabilities as well as actionable intelligence. The Oyo State Government worked closely with federal authorities. The Office of the National Security Adviser sustained strategic coordination throughout the process. No single institution could have produced that outcome alone.

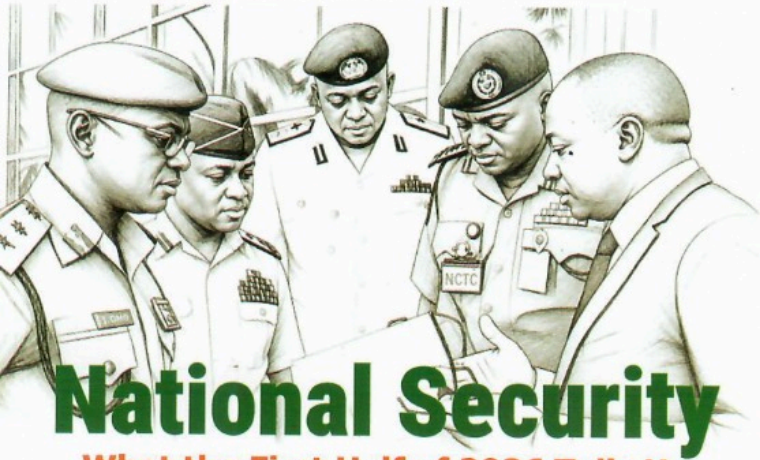


The rescue of the Oyo schoolchildren and teachers was not simply the successful conclusion of a hostage crisis. It was evidence of an emerging security doctrine—one that privileges coordination over fragmentation, intelligence over improvisation, and institutions over individual heroics.

Those children are home because several arms of the Nigerian state chose cooperation over competition, intelligence over impulse, and strategy over spectacle. That is the enduring lesson from Oyo. And if sustained, it may prove to be one of the most consequential developments in Nigeria's evolving national security story.

Crispin Oduobuk is a former acting editor of Weekly Trust.

The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).



National Security

What the First Half of 2026 Tells Us

In an effort to keep the public informed on the activities and giant strides recorded by Nigerian security, law enforcement and intelligence services, as well as other strategic Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) in addressing security concerns across Nigeria, the joint security press briefing was held on 2 July 2026 under the coordination of the Office of the National Security Adviser.

Beyond the impressive statistics and operational updates, the briefing revealed something more significant: the emergence of a more coordinated, intelligence-driven and whole-of-government approach to national security. Across the first six months of 2026, security agencies conducted thousands of coordinated operations against terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, organised crime, drug trafficking, economic sabotage, cyber-enabled crime and other threats. Hundreds of hostages were rescued, dangerous criminal networks dismantled, illegal weapons recovered, terrorist financiers prosecuted, and billions of naira worth of illicit drugs and stolen national assets intercepted.

> ***...effective national security is measured not only by successful operations, but also by the confidence of citizens***

The Armed Forces of Nigeria sustained pressure on terrorist and criminal groups through coordinated land, air and maritime operations while complementing military action with dialogue, community engagement and public sensitisation. The Nigeria Police Force expanded intelligence-led policing, dismantled organised criminal syndicates and strengthened community policing initiatives. The Department of State Services continued to disrupt terrorist logistics, secure major convictions and support rehabilitation efforts for victims and vulnerable communities.

Equally significant were achievements beyond the traditional security sector. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency dismantled the largest clandestine methamphetamine laboratory ever discovered in Nigeria while expanding prevention and rehabilitation programmes. The Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit strengthened Nigeria's anti-money laundering regime, contributing to the country's removal from the European Union's high-risk list and enhancing international confidence in Nigeria's financial system.

The Nigeria Customs Service intensified border protection against smuggling, illicit financial flows and wildlife trafficking. The Nigeria Immigration Service strengthened migration management and anti-trafficking operations while deploying new border surveillance technologies. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps focused on protecting critical national infrastructure and combating economic sabotage. The Federal Road Safety Corps demonstrated how road safety contributes to national security through intelligence support, vehicle recovery and public education. Meanwhile, institutions such as the Nigerian Correctional Service, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the Federal Fire Service and the National Emergency Management Agency highlighted the increasingly interconnected nature of security, justice, emergency response, humanitarian assistance and public resilience.

One of the most striking themes running through the briefing was the growing emphasis on intelligence and collaboration. Security agencies are increasingly sharing information, conducting joint operations, coordinating investigations and integrating technology into planning and execution. This reflects the understanding that today's security threats are interconnected and cannot be addressed effectively by any single institution acting alone.

Another important development is the recognition that communication itself has become a strategic security capability. Many agencies reported expanded public engagement, media briefings, community sensitisation campaigns and efforts to identify and counter misinformation and disinformation. In an era where false information can fuel fear, division and insecurity, timely and credible communication is an operational necessity rather than an optional public relations activity. The briefing also reinforced the principle that national security extends well beyond military operations.

Economic security, financial integrity, border management, disaster preparedness, public health, infrastructure protection, environmental security and information integrity all form part of Nigeria's evolving national security agenda. The fight against terrorism, for example, increasingly includes disrupting financing networks, prosecuting offenders, protecting critical infrastructure, preventing radicalisation and supporting rehabilitation and reintegration. Perhaps the most enduring message from the joint briefing is that security is a shared national responsibility. While security agencies continue to improve operational effectiveness, lasting security also depends on informed citizens, resilient communities, responsible media, active civil society, accountable institutions and strong partnerships across every sector of society.

The Joint Security Press Briefing therefore represents more than a report on operational achievements. It signals a new commitment to transparency, institutional coordination and strategic communication. By regularly informing citizens about the nation's security environment, acknowledging both progress and challenges, and encouraging public participation, the Government is strengthening trust between security institutions and the people they serve.

As The National Security Monitor begins publication, this collaborative briefing provides a fitting reminder that effective national security is measured not only by successful operations, but also by the confidence of citizens, the resilience of institutions and the strength of the partnerships that bind a nation together.

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SDP4 and the Future of UK–Nigeria Security Cooperation

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Since its inauguration in London in 2022, the Security and Defence Partnership has grown into a comprehensive framework for cooperation across counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, defence engagement, intelligence sharing, strategic communications, maritime security, law enforcement collaboration and regional stability initiatives. It has become a practical platform for addressing increasingly interconnected threats that transcend national borders.



In his remarks during the Dialogue, the United Kingdom's National Security Adviser, Jonathan Powell, reaffirmed the UK's commitment to a partnership founded on mutual respect, practical cooperation and shared responsibility. He noted that both countries face a rapidly evolving threat environment characterised by terrorism, organised crime, cyber threats, disinformation, illicit financial flows and regional instability. Powell emphasised the need for stronger collaboration in intelligence sharing, cyber resilience, strategic communications and institutional capacity building, while also highlighting Nigeria's critical role as a regional security leader in West Africa.

Similarly, the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu underscored the importance of innovative, coordinated and adaptive responses to emerging security challenges. He noted that traditional threats continue to evolve while new challenges, including cyber-enabled crime, artificial intelligence-driven risks and foreign information manipulation, require stronger partnerships and integrated responses.

The partnership has delivered measurable outcomes. Enhanced intelligence sharing, strengthened counter-terrorism coordination, expanded cyber resilience initiatives, improved aviation security and greater collaboration in disrupting terrorist financing networks have all contributed to strengthening Nigeria's security architecture. These achievements demonstrate the value of sustained engagement built on mutual respect and shared responsibility.

A defining feature of SDP4 was the growing recognition that effective security requires not only operational capability but also public trust and societal resilience. Participants acknowledged that security challenges are increasingly influenced by information ecosystems and public perceptions. In this regard, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) is an important institution in advancing the dialogue's objectives. Through its nationwide presence and community engagement structures, the NOA plays a critical role in promoting national values, countering misinformation and disinformation, strengthening information integrity, encouraging responsible citizenship and supporting community resilience.

The partnership has also adapted to emerging threats. As digital technologies increasingly shape the security landscape, both countries have expanded collaboration in cybersecurity, digital forensics, cyber resilience and information integrity. Joint training programmes, technical exchanges and policy development initiatives have strengthened institutional capacity and preparedness against cyber-enabled threats.

The regional dimension of the partnership is equally significant. As a leading security actor in West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea, Nigeria plays a critical role in addressing instability across the region. The evolving security challenges in the Sahel, including terrorism, organised crime, arms trafficking and humanitarian pressures, underscore the importance of coordinated international responses and stronger regional partnerships.

Importantly, the Security and Defence Partnership is anchored in a commitment to democratic governance, human rights, accountability and the rule of law. Both Nigeria and the United Kingdom recognise that sustainable security depends on strong institutions, civilian protection and public confidence.

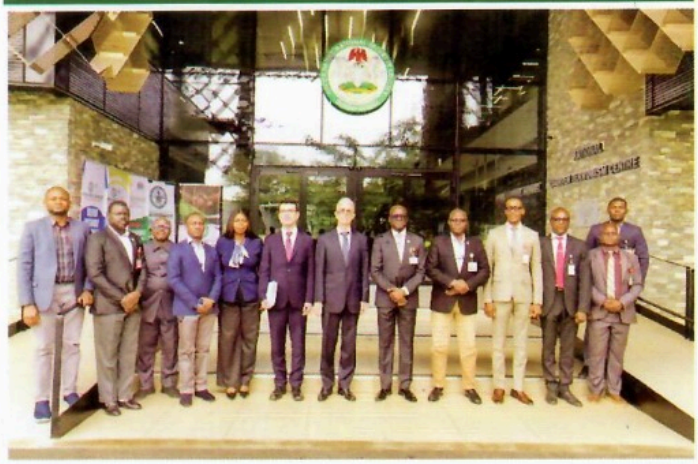


At the conclusion of SDP4, the focus shifted from dialogue to delivery. The success of the partnership will ultimately be measured not by meetings held or communiqués issued, but by stronger institutions, safer communities, enhanced regional stability and greater resilience against current and emerging threats.

The Fourth UK–Nigeria Security and Defence Partnership Dialogue demonstrated that enduring security is built through trusted partnerships, practical cooperation and shared responsibility. As both countries deepen collaboration, the partnership remains well positioned to contribute to a more secure, stable and prosperous future for Nigeria, West Africa and beyond.

Managing Editor's Note: The Fourth United Kingdom–Nigeria Security and Defence Partnership Dialogue (SDP4) was held at the Office of the National Security Adviser, Abuja, from 22–24 June 2026 under the co-chairmanship of Nigeria's National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, and the United Kingdom's National Security Adviser, Jonathan Powell.

Nigeria, Türkiye Deepen Defence Partnership with Local Drone Production Initiative



The Federal Government of Nigeria and the Republic of Türkiye have agreed to cooperate on local production of drones in Nigeria and other critical security infrastructure. The decision was taken during a recent visit to the National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Centre, Major General Adamu Garba Laka by the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Nigeria, His Excellency Mehmet Poroy.

> ***...strengthening forensic capabilities will further improve intelligence gathering, criminal investigations, and the prosecution of terrorism-related offences.***

Nigeria and Türkiye have maintained a longstanding relationship built on mutual trust and cooperation, particularly in the areas of defence and security. Over the years, both countries have continued to deepen collaboration through military training, capacity building, defence technology, and strategic engagements aimed at combating terrorism and other transnational security threats. During the meeting, Ambassador Poroy commended Nigeria's leadership and sustained commitment to the fight against terrorism and organised transnational crime, describing the country's role as pivotal to peace and stability in West Africa and across the African continent. He reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to expanding cooperation with Nigeria in areas that would further strengthen regional security and defence capabilities.

In his remarks, Major General Laka applauded the growing volume of trade and the enduring defence and security partnership between Nigeria and Türkiye. He noted that the collaboration had significantly enhanced Nigeria's efforts to combat terrorism, violent extremism, and other forms of organised crime. The National Coordinator also appealed for additional support in capacity development, particularly through specialised training for forensic laboratory scientists at the Centre. According to him, strengthening forensic capabilities will further improve intelligence gathering, criminal investigations, and the prosecution of terrorism-related offences.

ONSA pledges stronger media partnership on national security communication

The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) has reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the media to ensure timely, accurate and effective communication of national security issues to the public. The Special Adviser to the National Security Adviser on Strategic Communication and Civil Society Liaison, Dr. Chido Onumah, gave this assurance during a meeting with members of the Defence Correspondents Association of Nigeria (DECAN) on 8 July 2026 in Abuja.

Onumah described the media as a critical partner in advancing Nigeria's national security objectives through accurate, responsible and timely reporting. He commended DECAN's leadership for the visit and acknowledged the vital role defence correspondents play in enhancing public understanding of defence and security issues. He assured the association that its request for sustained capacity-building programmes for journalists covering the defence and security sector would be presented to the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, for consideration.



According to him, regular training would equip defence correspondents with the knowledge and professional skills required to report complex security issues with greater accuracy, responsibility and understanding. "Training will better position defence correspondents to report security issues with greater understanding, professionalism and responsibility," he said.

Earlier, DECAN President, Chief Odita Sunday, said the visit was part of the association's ongoing engagement with key institutions in the defence and security sector, aimed at strengthening collaboration and promoting informed public communication on national security matters. He called for a stronger partnership between DECAN and ONSA to promote accurate and responsible reporting of security issues while enhancing public confidence through effective communication.



Whole-of-Society Approach to Security: Building Peace Through Development



Military and law enforcement operations remain essential to national security, but lasting peace also depends on addressing the social, economic and governance conditions that fuel violence, extremism and criminality.

This was the focus of the Seminar on "A Whole-of-Society Approach to the Prevention of Violence and Conflict in Northern Nigeria" and the High-Level North-West Policy Dialogue on Reducing Multidimensional Poverty through Scaled Social Protection and Innovative Financing, held in Kano from 8–10 June 2026.

Representing the National Security Adviser, Director, State Liaison, Lami Chinade, joined government officials, development partners, traditional and religious leaders, academics, civil society organisations and the private sector to explore strategies for preventing conflict through inclusive development.

In his keynote address, the National Security Adviser stressed that Nigeria is strengthening a preventive, community-centred security architecture that complements ongoing security operations. He noted that investments in education, healthcare, livelihoods, social protection and inclusive governance are critical to sustainable peace and disclosed that ONSA is developing a National Peace Framework to institutionalise a whole-of-society approach to conflict prevention.

Participants agreed that insecurity is both a security and development challenge. The dialogue reaffirmed that resilient communities, empowered citizens, accountable governance and strong partnerships are indispensable to lasting peace, national stability and sustainable development.

NCTC, UK-NCA Convene Expanded Multi-Agency Anti-Kidnap Fusion Cell Programme

The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), with support from the United Kingdom National Crime Agency (UK-NCA), convened the Second Edition of the Multi-Agency Anti-Kidnap Fusion Cell (MAAKFC) State Expanded Programme and Stakeholders' Meeting at the NCTC Headquarters in Abuja from 6–10 July 2026.

The programme brought together security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies, relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and international partners to strengthen intelligence-led collaboration against kidnapping and organised crime.

> ***...Multi-Agency Anti-Kidnap Cell has enhanced intelligence, Integration, geospatial analysis and operational coordination***

Speaking on behalf of the National Security Adviser, the National Coordinator of NCTC, Major General Adamu Garba Laka, described kidnapping as one of Nigeria's most serious security threats, requiring sustained inter-agency cooperation, intelligence-sharing and coordinated operational responses.

He noted that the Multi-Agency Anti-Kidnap Fusion Cell has enhanced intelligence integration, geospatial analysis and operational coordination, contributing to successful rescue operations and the disruption of kidnapping networks.

The UK-NCA International Liaison Officer, Mr. Matt Mountain, reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to supporting Nigeria's efforts against serious and organised crime.

He emphasised the importance of stronger collaboration between state commands and the Fusion Cell to improve intelligence-sharing, operational effectiveness and victim support.

Participants also reviewed operational procedures and received specialised Kidnap Management Training based on the United Nations Kidnap Manual, further strengthening Nigeria's capacity to prevent kidnapping, rescue victims and bring offenders to justice.

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Presidency Repositions NSIB under ONSA to Strengthen Independent Multimodal Safety Investigations

Nigeria has taken an important step towards strengthening national safety and protecting critical national assets with the repositioning of the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) under the Presidency (and operationally acting) through the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).

Approved by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the reform recognises that transportation safety is closely linked to national security, economic stability and public confidence. Independent and credible safety investigations not only help prevent future occurrences and save lives, but also strengthen institutional accountability and national resilience.

A high-level stakeholders' meeting convened on 14 May 2026 pursuant to the Presidential Directive was chaired by the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, and co-chaired by Mrs. Hadiza Bala Usman, Special Adviser to the President on Policy and Coordination and Head of the Central Results Delivery Coordination Unit (CRDCU).

Representatives of government institutions, regulators and security agencies reaffirmed their support for an independent multimodal safety investigation framework for Nigeria.

The NSIB's mandate remains strictly preventive and no-blame, focusing on identifying the causes of transportation occurrences and making recommendations that enhance safety across sectors.

The reform will strengthen the Bureau's operational independence while deepening collaboration among relevant agencies across the aviation, maritime, rail, road and inland waterways sectors.

By aligning Nigeria's safety investigation framework with international best practice, the repositioning of the NSIB underscores an important truth: building safer transportation systems is fundamental to building a safer, more secure and more resilient nation.



> ***...the reform will strengthen the Bureau's operational independence while deepening collaboration among relevant agencies across the aviation, maritime, rail, road and inland waterways sectors.***

NCCC Presents ACP II Programme Final Report



The National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre (NCCC) has successfully concluded the Africa Cyber Programme (ACP II) with the presentation of its Final Report and the award of certificates to participants who completed its training and capacity-building activities.

The event, which took place on 13 February 2026, highlighted the programme's achievements in capacity development, knowledge exchange, and collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening cybersecurity expertise and institutional resilience. Participants were recognised for their commitment and professional growth throughout the programme, with their certifications reflecting the skills and competencies acquired during the training.

The Final Report captured key lessons learned and best practices to guide future programmes and partnerships. It also underscored the importance of sustained collaboration, continuous learning, and innovation in addressing emerging cybersecurity challenges.

By equipping participants with practical knowledge and fostering a network of cybersecurity professionals, the ACP II Programme has contributed to building the human capacity needed to strengthen Nigeria's digital resilience and support national development.



NSA, U.S. Delegation Advance Strategic Security Cooperation

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, on 13 July 2026 held high-level talks with a senior United States delegation led by the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Frank Garcia, as part of ongoing efforts to deepen strategic security cooperation between Nigeria and the United States.

The meeting reviewed progress made under the U.S.-Nigeria Joint Working Group and explored opportunities for strengthening bilateral collaboration in addressing shared security challenges. Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, capacity building, and regional security initiatives.

The engagement underscored the enduring strategic partnership between both countries and their shared commitment to promoting peace, stability, and security in Nigeria, the West African sub-region, and beyond.

Ribadu reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to working closely with international partners to advance intelligence-led and coordinated responses to emerging security threats. He emphasised the importance of sustained dialogue and institutional cooperation in addressing the increasingly complex nature of contemporary security challenges.

ONSA Hosts 2nd Meeting of the Forum of National and Subnational Security Officials

The 2nd Meeting of the Forum of National and Subnational Security Officials (FONSSO) hosted by ONSA took place on 9 July 2026. This is a follow up to the inaugural FONSSO meeting on 9 February 2026.

The meeting brought together designated senior security officials from all 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), alongside Special Advisers, Directors and Coordinators from ONSA Centres and Directorates, representatives of key security and intelligence agencies, representative of the Director General of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), and the leadership of the Secretariats of the Governors' Forums at the zonal level to evaluate the security architecture across the country.

FONSSO marks a turning point in Nigeria's security architecture – bringing federal and subnational security leadership into a sustained, structured partnership.

Members resolved to stand together against common enemies threatening Nigeria's peace and stability, operating on principles of evidence-based action, prevention over reaction, and collaboration over fragmentation.

The National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, charged members to operate a unified platform for sustained intelligence-sharing, operational coordination, and collaborative security governance across Nigeria.

Nigeria Advances African-led Responses to Terrorism at UN Counter Terrorism Week



The Nigerian government through the National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Adviser, Major General AG Laka, advanced African-led responses in countering terrorism during the fourth United Nations Counter Terrorism Week, held from 26 June to 2 July 2026, at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York.

The National Coordinator participated in high-level events on the role of artificial intelligence in counter-terrorism, strengthening operational networks to address the crime-terror nexus in Africa, and advancing African-led responses to terrorism through enhanced international cooperation and support.

The week-long engagement, convened by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), brought together Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies, senior government officials, and international partners under the theme, "A Future Free from Terrorism: Consolidating the Global Commitment to Multi-Stakeholder Approaches to Counter Terrorism through Member States' Leadership and Action." As part of the High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, Major General Laka participated in strategic discussions on strengthening multilateral cooperation, enhancing coordination among Member States, and advancing comprehensive approaches to addressing the evolving global terrorism threat.

The engagements provided an important platform for Nigeria to exchange experiences, share best practices, and deepen strategic partnerships in support of effective, coordinated, and sustainable counter-terrorism efforts. Nigeria remains committed to working with the international community to promote innovative responses to terrorism and violent extremism while advancing regional and global peace and security.



FG, UK Launch Strategic Incident Commanders' and Intelligence Training Courses

The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), in partnership with the British High Commission's Joint Counter Terrorism Training and Advisory Team (JCTTAT), conducted a 10-day capacity-building programme in Abuja from 29 June to 10 July 2026.

The programme combined the Advanced Intelligence Analysis Course with the Gold, Silver and Bronze Incident Commanders' Courses, aimed at strengthening Nigeria's counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness and crisis response capabilities.

Speaking at the opening, the National Coordinator of NCTC, Major General Adamu Garba Laka, represented by Brigadier General Peter Gbor, Director of Intelligence, commended the British High Commission for supporting the initiative and urged participants to apply the knowledge gained to enhance national security operations.

Speaking on behalf of the British High Commission, Anthony Francis, representing the Regional Coordinator of JCTTAT, Ian Tyler, noted that evolving security threats across the Sahel require stronger bilateral cooperation. He explained that the training programme stems from commitments made during President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's March 2026 state visit to the United Kingdom—the first by a Nigerian President in 37 years—during which both countries agreed to deepen collaboration on shared security priorities. He stressed that sustainable economic growth and prosperity depend on a stable and secure environment.

The courses equipped strategic, tactical and operational leaders with structured incident management skills, including the introduction of the Bronze Incident Commanders' Course, developed in consultation with NCTC to enhance frontline coordination and communication during emergencies. The Advanced Intelligence Analysis Course also strengthened participants' capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate intelligence effectively across the security sector.

Organisers said the skills gained through the training will improve interoperability among security agencies and serve as a critical preparatory step for Exercise RAPID RESPONSE scheduled for September 2026.

Key Outcomes of the Second Quarter Federal and States' Security Administrators Meeting



Effective national security depends not only on federal security institutions but also on strong coordination between the Federal Government and the states. This principle guided the Second Quarter Federal and States' Security Administrators Meeting (FSSAM) held in Jos, Plateau State, from 17–19 June 2026.

The meeting brought together representatives of 15 federal agencies and 21 states to review the country's security situation and identify measures to strengthen coordination and preparedness. Discussions focused on persistent threats including terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, farmer-herder conflicts and attacks on schools, as well as the growing sophistication of criminal networks operating across the North-West and North-Central regions.

Participants expressed concern over the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, porous borders, cyber insecurity, unresolved boundary disputes and challenges within the criminal justice system. They called for stronger collaboration with the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and enhanced surveillance along border communities and major transportation routes.

Cybersecurity also featured prominently, with states encouraged to deepen collaboration with the National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre to improve cyber resilience and public awareness. Participants further stressed the importance of non-kinetic approaches, including community-based initiatives to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism.

The meeting recommended the establishment of Boundary Committees, Security Coordination Committees and Command and Control Centres in states where they do not exist. It also proposed stronger vehicle tracking systems, improved intelligence sharing and greater support for alternative livelihood programmes to address the socio-economic drivers of insecurity.

The meeting reaffirmed that effective national security requires a coordinated whole-of-government approach built on strong institutions, responsive governance and sustained collaboration among federal, state and local stakeholders.

Strengthening Nigeria's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Framework



The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), with the support of UK SPRiNG, successfully conducted a Validation Workshop on 13–14 July 2026 for the development of a comprehensive suite of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support Nigeria's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) framework.

The workshop focused on translating Nigeria's Strategic Framework and Strategy for DDR into practical, standardised operational guidance for institutions responsible for implementing DDR interventions at the Federal, State, and Local Government levels.

It brought together key stakeholders to review and validate the proposed SOPs, ensuring they are responsive to operational realities and aligned with national priorities for peacebuilding, security, and social reintegration.

The validated SOPs are expected to strengthen inter-agency coordination, enhance institutional effectiveness, and promote a more coherent, consistent, and sustainable approach to the implementation of DDR programmes across the country.

The initiative underscores the commitment of the Office of the National Security Adviser, through the National Counter Terrorism Centre, to strengthening Nigeria's capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism by fostering institutional resilience, promoting effective reintegration pathways, and supporting long-term peace and stability in affected communities.



NSA Calls for Enhanced Border Security Architecture for National Stability

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, has identified porous borders as a major factor fueling terrorism, arms trafficking, smuggling, human trafficking, irregular migration, and other forms of transnational organised crime in Nigeria. He stressed that strengthening Nigeria's border security architecture is critical to safeguarding national sovereignty and ensuring national stability.

The NSA's message was delivered by the Director of Policy and Strategy at the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Ambassador Yazid Gbemudu, who represented him at the 15th National Security Seminar held on 16–17 June 2026 at the National Defence College, Abuja. The seminar, jointly organised by the Alumni Association of the National Defence College (AANDEC), ONSA, and the National Defence College (NDC), was themed, "Strengthening Nigeria's Border Security Architecture for National Stability."

The NSA reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to strengthening border security through intelligence-led operations, enhanced inter-agency collaboration, strategic investments in technology, and stronger regional partnerships. He noted that while Nigeria's extensive land and maritime borders are vital to trade and regional integration, they also present evolving security challenges that require coordinated and innovative responses.

He emphasised that addressing these challenges demands a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach involving security institutions, policymakers, academia, civil society, and local communities. ONSA's participation in the seminar reflects its continued commitment to advancing strategic dialogue and strengthening policies that contribute to a safer, more secure, and more prosperous Nigeria.

NCTC Partners TAG International to Boost Communication Strategy

The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), in a strategic partnership with UK-based TAG International, has successfully concluded a comprehensive two-phase training workshop designed to drastically sharpen Nigeria's counter-narrative and security campaigns. The initiative focused heavily on equipping Strategic Communications (STRATCOM) officers with advanced tools to design and execute high-impact messaging campaigns. These frameworks are specifically targeted at addressing the delicate security dynamics within the BAY states (Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe).

It centered on the UK OASIS model, a structured data-driven approach to communications strategy. The training was structured across two distinct phases to ensure both theoretical mastery and practical application. The first phase took place from 11–13 May 2026, laying the foundational methodology. This was closely followed by a second, refinement phase held from 16–17 June 2026. It brought together seasoned international and local experts. The facilitation team from TAG International comprised John Cecil Wright, Paul Bell, Ahmed Jumare and Abdulkadir Sule, who shared global best practices. Mr. Wright had earlier held discussion on the training with the National Coordinator of the NCTC, Maj Gen Adamu Garba Laka. Jumare, of NEEM Foundation, provided crucial local context and civil society perspective in his presentations.

Participants were drawn from the STRATCOM Department of the NCTC, alongside representatives from various Directorates and Departments of the Centre towards ensuring an integrated, institutional approach to effectively apply the principles of strategic communication in Nigeria's counter terrorism efforts. By transitioning from traditional publicity to metrics-driven strategic communication, the NCTC aims to significantly weaken the influence of violent extremist groups through highly targeted, culturally resonant, and verifiable messaging campaigns in the northeast.



NCCSALW Intensifies Arms Control Efforts, Recovers Over 21,000 Illicit Firearms



The National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) has recorded significant progress in Nigeria's efforts to curb the proliferation of illicit weapons through coordinated operations, strategic partnerships and sustained capacity-building initiatives.

Working closely with security and law enforcement agencies, the Centre has strengthened intelligence-driven operations, enhanced inter-agency collaboration and supported measures to prevent the illegal circulation of firearms across the country.

To date, 21,338 illicit firearms have been recovered through coordinated operations. In compliance with the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Centre has successfully destroyed 16,016 illicit firearms, ensuring that recovered weapons do not re-enter circulation. An additional 2,819 firearms have been scheduled for destruction, while the remaining recovered weapons are undergoing the necessary legal and administrative processes prior to disposal.

The Centre has also supported the investigation and prosecution of major arms trafficking cases, including the illegal importation of 844 firearms and 112,500 cartridges, as well as offences involving the unlawful importation and sale of firearms without the required licences.

Beyond its operational successes, NCCSALW has continued to strengthen national capacity through specialised training programmes in weapon identification, marking and destruction, physical security and stockpile management, arms importation procedures, disarmament and reintegration, leadership development and international tracing mechanisms.

These efforts underscore the Centre's commitment to strengthening arms control, enhancing national security and advancing Nigeria's regional and international obligations in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE CONTROL OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (NCCSALW)
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Nigeria Validates Landmark Strategy to Combat Organised Crime



Nigeria has taken a significant step towards strengthening national and regional security with the validation of its first-ever National Strategy for Combating Organised Crime (2027–2031).

Developed by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United States Mission in Nigeria, the strategy will be formally launched on 17 August 2026.

> ***"...Built on four pillars—Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Promote—the strategy provides a coordinated response to threats such as drug trafficking, cybercrime, kidnapping, human trafficking, and illicit financial flows."***

The validation meeting, held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) in Abuja on 17 July 2026 brought together security chiefs, law enforcement agencies, and international partners to finalise the framework.

Speaking on behalf of the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, the National Coordinator of the NCTC, Major General Adamu Garba Laka, described the strategy as Nigeria's first comprehensive national framework for addressing the growing link between organised crime and terrorism.

Built on four pillars—Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Promote—the strategy provides a coordinated response to threats such as drug trafficking, cybercrime, kidnapping, human trafficking, and illicit financial flows.

By strengthening inter-agency collaboration and international partnerships, the strategy is expected to enhance public safety, support economic stability, and reinforce Nigeria's role in promoting peace and security across West Africa.

Feature:

Operation Safe Corridor

Beyond the Criticisms and Resistance

By David Akoji

In Nigeria's long war against insurgency, military operations have not been the only instrument deployed to restore peace. Alongside kinetic operations, the country has pursued a less visible but equally important strategy: the rehabilitation and reintegration of low-risk former insurgents and individuals coerced into extremist groups. This is the rationale behind Operation Safe Corridor (OPSC), Nigeria's flagship deradicalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration programme.

A War Beyond the Battlefield

As security forces reclaimed territories from Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, many individuals found within insurgent-controlled areas were discovered to be abductees, coerced recruits or persons trapped by circumstance rather than ideology. This created a difficult challenge: how should the state respond to those seeking to abandon violence and return to society? Operation Safe Corridor was established to address this challenge through a non-kinetic approach focused on disengagement, deradicalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration. Participants undergo rigorous screening by security agencies and the Federal Ministry of Justice before entering the programme. Within a controlled environment, they receive psychological counselling, religious reorientation, civic education and vocational training designed to prepare them for productive lives within their communities.

> ***...each successful reintegration potentially reduces the pool of recruits available to extremist organisations, provides valuable intelligence on insurgent networks and demonstrates that a lawful pathway away from violence exists.***

Measuring Impact

Since its inception, more than 3,000 individuals have completed the programme and been reintegrated into society. Beyond the numbers, the initiative offers important security benefits. Each successful reintegration potentially reduces the pool of recruits available to extremist organisations, provides valuable intelligence on insurgent networks and demonstrates that a lawful pathway away from violence exists.

Understanding Public Skepticism

Despite these gains, Operation Safe Corridor remains controversial. Many Nigerians, particularly victims of insurgent violence, question why former fighters appear to receive rehabilitation and support while victims continue to grapple with trauma, displacement and economic hardship. This perception challenge has been compounded by limited public understanding of how the programme operates, who qualifies for participation and what safeguards exist for receiving communities. Greater public awareness is therefore essential. Equally important is recognition of the support provided to affected communities and victims through institutions such as the North East Development Commission (NEDC) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), both of which play important roles within the broader reintegration framework.

Challenges and the Way Forward

Like similar programmes implemented in countries such as Colombia, Saudi Arabia and Somalia, Operation Safe Corridor faces significant challenges. Funding constraints, post-reintegration monitoring, community acceptance and limited economic opportunities can undermine long-term success. For the programme to achieve its objectives, rehabilitation efforts must be complemented by investments in education, livelihoods, social protection, community resilience and victim support. Communities receiving returnees must also be adequately prepared and engaged to foster acceptance and reduce tensions.

Conclusion

Operation Safe Corridor was never intended to end insurgency on its own. Rather, it complements military and law enforcement efforts by reducing the human drivers of conflict and creating opportunities for disengagement from violent extremism. Its long-term success will depend on maintaining public trust, strengthening community participation, supporting victims and ensuring that beneficiaries have sustainable pathways to reintegration. Ultimately, the effectiveness of any rehabilitation programme is measured not by how many people pass through it, but by how many successfully rebuild their lives and never return to violence.

David Akoji is a PhD student of Communication and Media Studies at Bingham University, Karu, Nasarawa State.

The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).

Viewpoints

National Security Begins in the Information Space

- By Wole Oni

For decades, national security was viewed primarily through a military lens. Governments invested in armed forces, intelligence services and law enforcement agencies to protect their territories and citizens from external aggression and internal threats. While these remain essential, the digital age has transformed the security landscape. Today, one of the most important arenas of national security is the information space.

> ***...National security today requires a whole-of-society approach involving government, the media, civil society, educational institutions, technology companies, traditional leaders and citizens***

Millions of Nigerians rely on digital platforms such as Facebook, X, WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube for news, education, business and social interaction. These platforms have expanded access to information and strengthened public participation. However, they have also created opportunities for misinformation, disinformation, cybercrime, extremist propaganda and foreign influence operations.

The consequences can be severe. False information can fuel communal tensions, incite violence, undermine trust in public institutions and deepen political and social divisions. Terrorist and criminal groups increasingly exploit digital platforms to spread propaganda, recruit followers and coordinate activities. Cybercriminals use the same technologies to target individuals, businesses and government systems.

These realities require a broader understanding of national security. Military and law enforcement operations remain indispensable, but they must be complemented by efforts to protect the information environment. Strategic communication has therefore become a critical instrument of national security.

Effective strategic communication is not propaganda. It involves the timely, transparent and credible dissemination of accurate information to strengthen public trust, counter false narratives and promote informed decision-making. Equally important is media and information literacy, which enables citizens to verify information before sharing it and resist manipulation.

National security today requires a whole-of-society approach involving government, the media, civil society, educational institutions, technology companies, traditional leaders and citizens. In an era where a misleading post can spread nationwide within minutes, safeguarding the information space is no longer optional. It is a strategic necessity.

Nigeria's security begins not only at its borders but also in the information its citizens receive, trust and share.

Wole Oni is a public affairs analyst and development communication specialist.

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ONSA and Anticipatory Action: Strengthening National Resilience Against Flood and Drought Risks

- By Agrih Dauda Sukukum

Flooding and drought are no longer viewed solely as environmental or humanitarian challenges; they have become significant national security concerns with implications for food security, displacement, livelihoods, infrastructure and community stability.

Recognising these risks, the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President (OVP), has been coordinating a multi-agency anticipatory action framework aimed at strengthening preparedness and reducing the impact of climate-related disasters before they escalate into security crises.

Through the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), ONSA brings together key institutions including the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, security agencies and state governments.

The framework promotes joint risk assessments, information sharing, early warning systems and coordinated preparedness measures in vulnerable communities.

A critical pillar of this effort is strategic communication. ONSA coordinates a Multi-Agency Strategic Communication Task Group that develops unified risk messages, amplifies early warnings and promotes community preparedness.

The Anticipatory Action Strategic Communication Framework, developed in 2025, provides a common platform for government agencies, media organisations and civil society groups to communicate effectively and counter misinformation during disaster periods.

By integrating disaster risk into national security planning, ONSA is helping to reduce losses, strengthen public trust, enhance community resilience and promote a whole-of-government approach to disaster preparedness and national resilience.

Dr. Agrih Dauda Sukukum is a Deputy Director at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).