

# **PRIORITY TALKING AND ADVOCACY POINTS ON PCVE PROGRAMMING IN NIGERIA: CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE – JULY 2017**

## **CONTEXT:**

Although Programming on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism [PCVE] in Nigeria is relatively nascent, nevertheless a lot of progress is being made.

Under the coordination of the Office Of The National Security Adviser [ONSA], progress is being made around several issues and on several fronts, including efforts at coordination and building synergy among and between all actors; developing and deploying necessary appropriate frameworks; and engendering ownership of the process by government, its institutions and citizens.

The relevant laws and policy instruments accord ONSA the mandate of the lead agency with respect to Nigeria's Counter Terrorism [CT] and PCVE efforts.

And although tremendous progress has been made over the last three years in this regard, a number of key challenges still remain, which if addressed will create the enabling environment for Nigeria to be able to more effectively tackle and address the threat posed by Violent Extremism and Terrorism to Human Security and National existence.

As active participants in these efforts, we as Civil Society feel the need to prioritise advocacy for the following key challenges in order to enhance PCVE efforts and processes in Nigeria.

## **PRIORITY ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS:**

**1. APPROVED NATIONAL PCVE POLICY AND ACTION PLAN:** Formal Approval of the PCVE National Policy and Action Plan: As part of its "Whole of society" approach towards Counter Terrorism and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism, Nigeria has been developing its National Policy and Action Plan on PCVE over the last one year. This effort coordinated and led by ONSA has been multi-stakeholder and participatory including benefiting from international support. The policy has been validated and finalised and is now awaiting Presidential approval to become operational.

Nigeria had committed at the last UNGA to having an operational National Policy in fulfillment of commitments to the UN Resolution, by the 2017 UNGA in September. It is now less than two months to the 2017 UNGA,

**2. STRATEGIC CONFLICT ASSESSMENT [SCA] REPORT:** In another recent effort towards promoting and ensuring Peace And Security, the Federal Government owned Institute For Peace And Conflict Resolution [IPCR] has recently completed the Strategic Conflict Assessment [SCA] of Nigeria with recommendations, and a National Action Plan developed and validated by stakeholders towards implementation of the recommendations. The SCA equally flagged and addressed the threat of Violent Extremism and Terrorism, and addressed recommendations and action plans towards addressing the threat. It is important for the Government of Nigeria to fully engage with the SCA, its recommendations and the national action plan.

**3. COORDINATION:** A major gap in PCVE response at the moment and which an approved National Policy Framework will lay the foundation for addressing is that of Coordination - improving and enhancing coordination at several levels: (A) Within and among state actors - vertically and horizontally; (B) Within and among Civil society and other non-state actors; (C) Within and among donor and international development partners; and (D) Between and among all these categories.

**4. POLITICAL OWNERSHIP:** Just as an approved policy framework is central to coordination; it is also important for Government of Nigeria to take political ownership of the processes: own and operationalise the national PCVE policy and action plan; own and operationalise the SCA and its action plan; and get the Federal Executive Council [FEC] to take strategic ownership of implementation of the processes. In order for coordination to be institutionalised and to be institutionally driven, FEC, and political leaders need to take ownership and give strategic oversight direction.

**5. FUNDING:** In order to implement the PCVE National Policy and Action Plan, as well as the SCA Recommendations and Action Plan, relevant Government institutions at Federal and state levels need to orient their planning and budgetary processes towards implementation. Actions required of MDAs need to be integrated into their plans, and become parts of their budget requests, in order for funds to be appropriated for implementation. Again, political ownership of the process by the government and the FEC will enable planned activities and processes to be integrated into budget requests, which can then be appropriated for.

**6. ENHANCED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Given Nigeria's commitments with respect to the Open Government Initiative, it is necessary that enabling environment for the participation of citizens, and civil society organisations at Federal, state and local and community levels, should be established and constantly enhanced and strengthened. Space needs to be guaranteed for civil society engagement, and processes that will enable effective participation, capacity building, information and experience sharing by civil society and citizens need to be encouraged and supported. In this respect the value addition of PCVE Networks of civil society can not be overemphasised. This will be in keeping with Government of Nigeria's own "Whole of Society" approach towards CT and PCVE.

**SIGNED: NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE; PARTNERSHIP AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM [PAVE] NETWORK, NIGERIA:**

1. JAYE GASKIA – PRAXIS CENTRE [FCT]
2. BRIDGET OSAKWE – WANEP [LAGOS/SOUTH WEST]
3. ABDULMILIKI IDRIS – CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION [KOGI]
4. ABUBAKAR MU’AZU – BORNO COALITION FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS [BORNO]
5. SAVIOUR AKPAN – COMMUNITY POLICING PARTNERS [AKWA IBOM/SOUTH-SOUTH]
6. JAMILU MUSTAPHA – COALITION FOR SECURITY AND PEACE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA [KADUNA]
7. MOHAMMED MUSTAPHA – DEMOCRACY ACTION GROUP [KANO]
8. ABDULLAHI DAHIRU BULA – CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK ON PEACE [YOBE]