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The Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, organized by my Office earlier this month,
highlighted the devastating impact of such fatalities, reaching far beyond those who lose their
lives or limbs in these heinous attacks.

Excellencies,

Terrorists exploit conflict, governance fragilities and inequality, and undermine public
confidence and trust in institutions. This contributes to expanding their influence and control,
and to driving recruitment

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Progress in this regard at the regional level, would result in more effective counter terrorism
measures at the national level.

Stepping up cooperation and partnership with African regional organizations, including the
African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic
Community of Central African States (ECCAS), East African Community (EAC),
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development
Community (SADC) is a strategic priority of my Office.

To this end, our Programme Offices in Nairobi and Rabat are initiatives that can facilitate
regional capacity-building as well as cooperation. This is one important step towards enhancing
our strategic engagement with African Member States.

Excellencies,

Terrorism must be met with resolve by all actors. But prevention remains one of the most
important tools against terrorism. Addressing its deep and multi-faceted drivers yield more
impactful and long-lasting results. Military operations or security-centred responses alone are
insufficient in the fight against terrorism.

My Office remains fully committed to working with you, as we continue to enhance our
cooperation with the African Union in support of national and regional counter-terrorism
efforts. This cooperation includes the United Nations-African Union Working Group on
Countering Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and our engagement
with the African Centre for the Study and Research of Terrorism.

Finally, my Office is organizing with the Government of Nigeria and other partners a High-Level
African Counter-Terrorism Summit ŽŶƚŚĞƚŚĞŵĞ͞^ƚƌĞŶŐƚŚĞŶŝŶŐRegional Cooperation and
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2023.

The Summit is a part of our efforts to mobilize more international support for African States
affected by terrorism and violent extremism, and to reverse the worrying terrorist trend
through enhanced multilateral cooperation.

I look forward to your engagement in the preparatory process of the Summit. This preparatory
process is crucial for the success of the Summit.

We must not allow terrorism to undermine the great progress that is being made on the
continent. Let us work together to achieve the goals of AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.
Thank you.