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Plenary sitting

27.4.2015

B8-0370/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Nigeria
(2015/2520(RSP))

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on behalf of the S&D Group

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United in diversity

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B8-0370/2015

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Nigeria
(2015/2520(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Nigeria and in particular to its most recent plenary debate on the matter of Wednesday, 14 January 2015,
- having regard to the statements by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, including the statements of 8 January, 19 January, 31 March and 14 and 15 April 2015,
- having regard to the Council Conclusions of 9 February 2015,
- having regard to the fifth Nigeria-EU ministerial dialogue, held in Abuja on 27 November 2014,
- having regard to the preliminary conclusions of the EU and EP Election Observation Missions,
- having regard to the statements made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon,
- having regard to the statements by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the possibility that members of Boko Haram could be accused of war crimes,
- having regard to the UN Declaration of 1981 on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples of 1981, ratified by Nigeria on 22 June 1983,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil Rights of 1966, ratified by Nigeria on 29 October 1993,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Nigeria is the most populous, ethnically diverse country in Africa, marked by regional and religious cleavages and a North-South divide with severe economic and social disparities;
- B. whereas Nigeria is the biggest economy in the African continent and a major EU trade partner; but whereas, despite its vast resources, Nigeria ranks among the most unequal countries in the world;

- C. whereas the attacks carried out by Boko Haram between 3 and 8 January 2015 targeted Baga and 16 surrounding towns and villages, destroying nearly 3 700 structures, according to satellite images, and killing thousands of people;
- D. whereas Boko Haram has taken and held a number of towns in north-east Nigeria and continues to forcibly recruit civilians to their ranks, including many children;
- E. whereas in April 2014 more than 270 girls were kidnapped from a government school in Chibok (Borno state); whereas the majority remain missing; whereas since then hundreds more people have been abducted by Boko Haram;
- F. whereas the United Nations estimates that the violence in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states has displaced 1.5 million people, while more than three million people have been affected by the insurgency;
- G. whereas more than 300 000 Nigerians have fled to north-western Cameroon and south-western Niger to escape the violence; and whereas hundreds of Nigerians are risking their lives on the migration routes to the EU in the hope of better economic, social and security living conditions;
- H. whereas the number of attacks, including the use of children as suicide bombers, is increasing and the attacks are perpetrated across large territories, and also in neighbouring countries – Chad and Cameroon;
- I. whereas the initial response of the Nigerian authorities was extremely insufficient and has ignited a sentiment of distrust on the part of the population towards its institutions;
- J. whereas the spillover of Boko Haram insurgency in the neighbouring countries reveals the importance of greater regional cooperation and response;
- K. whereas Nigeria plays a key role in regional and African politics and is a driving force of regional integration through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- L. whereas oil revenues have been steadily decreasing and an economic crisis is looming;
- M. whereas education, women's rights, social justice and a fair distribution of state revenues in society, and the fight against corruption are key to fighting fundamentalism, violence and intolerance;
- N. whereas terrorism is a global threat, but the global community's efforts to do more against Boko Haram in Nigeria depended to some degree on the full measure of credibility, accountability, and transparency of the election;
- O. whereas Nigeria is still a young and fragile democracy, which faced extreme violence following the results of the 2011 elections and the accusations of vote rigging;
- P. whereas the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) postponed the elections from 14 and 28 February 2015 to 28 March and 11 April 2015, in order to enable the government to launch military actions against Boko Haram, and a regional

response was launched in March 2015 with Chad, Niger and Cameroon, which enabled the presence of Boko Haram to be reduced;

- Q. whereas the electoral campaign took place in a tense environment with incidents of election-related violence reported in all parts of the country, especially in the South and South West, attacks by Boko Haram to discourage voters, breaches of campaign regulations and inducement of voters;
 - R. whereas systemic weaknesses, notably at the collation, misuse of incumbency and use of violence were noted by local and international observers; whereas, however, no systematic manipulation was observed;
 - S. whereas the EU deployed a long-term election observation mission at the invitation of the government, which included a delegation from the European Parliament;
 - T. whereas on 31 March 2015 the presidential candidate of the opposition All Progressive Congress (APC), General Muhammadu Buhari, was declared the winner of the elections, and the incumbent President peacefully conceded his defeat;
 - U. whereas fewer women were elected than in 2011, which already displayed a negative trend;
1. Strongly condemns the ongoing and increasingly disturbing violence in Nigeria, which has led to thousands of deaths and injuries and displaced hundreds of thousands of people;
 2. Deplores the massacre of innocent men, women and children, and stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Nigeria in their determination to fight all forms of terrorism in their country;
 3. Asks the newly elected President to maintain his campaign promises and to put all resources into bringing an end to the violence of Boko Haram, re-establishing stability and security across the whole country and addressing the root causes of this terrorism, and notably to take firmer action in fighting internal corruption, mismanagement and inefficiencies within the public institutions and the army, which have rendered it incapable of dealing with the scourge of Boko Haram in the north of the country, to adopt measures to starve Boko Haram of their sources of illegal income, through cooperation with neighbouring countries, in particular with regard to smuggling and trafficking;
 4. Calls also on the new Nigerian authorities to adopt a roadmap on the social and economic development of the northern and southern states in order to address the issues of poverty and inequality, promoting fair distribution of oil revenues, in the context of decentralisation, which are a cause of spiralling violence; asks the EU to use all its tools to promote these measures, including the possibility of recourse to the African Peace Facility and EU crisis management tools;
 5. Welcomes the determination expressed at the Niamey Regional Summit of 20 and 21 January 2015 by the 13 participating countries, in particular the military commitment of

Chad, together with Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria, to the fight against the terrorist threats of Boko Haram; encourages a strengthening of this regional response, using all existing tools; insists that without such cooperation the violence is likely to continue, undermining peace and stability across the region; points out, in this regard, the pledge of allegiance made by Boko Haram to Da'esh, and the necessity to impede any further coordination or cooperation between the two terrorist organisations and the expansion of this threat;

6. Urges the international community to do more to help the Nigerian Government fight Boko Haram, and notably to secure the release of the 200-plus girls kidnapped by Boko Haram from a government school in Chibok in Borno State in April 2014, and to address the root causes of terrorism, as only a global response can ensure a permanent end to violence and fundamentalism;
7. Calls on the international community also to help the Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries; and urges the EU Member States to set up immediately a credible and holistic European system to manage the migration routes from Sub-Saharan Africa to the Middle-East and Northern Africa, offer sustainable development solutions to the origin countries such as Nigeria and bring an end to the human tragedies taking place on these routes;
8. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to fulfil their commitment to providing a comprehensive range of political, development and humanitarian support to Nigeria and its people in tackling the Boko Haram threat and ensuring the development of the country; also urges the EU to investigate the financing of Boko Haram and to address the transparency of trade in all natural resources, including oil, in order to avoid any fuelling of conflicts by our own companies;
9. Believes the Nigerian Government has the right and responsibility to defend its people from terrorism, but insists that such actions must be conducted in accordance with respect for human rights and the rule of law;
10. Calls for thorough investigations of the allegations of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrest and extortion-related abuses, and believes such actions cannot be justified as a means of combating the threat posed by Boko Haram or other terrorist organisations;
11. Welcomes the initiatives of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and calls on the African Union to engage, as a matter of urgency, in concrete action, together with all the countries involved, to coordinate the fight against terrorist groups in the Sahel region;
12. Congratulates the opposition leader Muhammadu Buhari on his presidential win and President Jonathan's commendable concession of defeat, which created a peaceful electoral environment, welcomes the continued commitment of all political parties and candidates to peaceful elections, and urges them to continue to accept the results without violence;
13. Congratulates the Nigerian people for its democratic enthusiasm and mobilisation

during the whole electoral process, and asks the Nigerian authorities to reinforce good governance and to promote more accountable democratic institutions;

14. Welcomes the determination of the INEC in undertaking a reasonably credible, transparent and fair electoral process despite the internal and external constraints and pressure it was faced with;
15. Encourages the victims of grievances to address them through official dispute resolution mechanisms, and asks the Nigerian authorities to respond to each one of them with full and credible investigation and redress within the law; asks the EU to support the development of such mechanisms;
16. Calls on the Nigerian Government to promote women's participation in public and political life;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Nigeria, the Representatives of ECOWAS and the African Union.