

**Committe** : United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Country** : Nigeria

**Topic**: Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of

Terrorism

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is on the west coast of Africa, neighboring Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria gained it’s independence from Great Britain on 1 October 1960, and ever since the government has been modeled after that of the United States of America. That is to say that the executive branch of government can have a maximum of two four-year terms, there is a bicameral legislature, the upper house has three seats per state and the lower house is based on population. Nigeria has three types of laws: they have a derivative of common law from their former British colonization, customary law passed down through indigenous tribal norms, and Sharia law present in the majority Muslim northern part of the country. Nigeria also recently became the largest economy in Africa, surpassing South Africa, and is considered part of the next BRIC-like group of economies, called MINT.

In Nigeria, one in seven persons aged 15-64 years had used a drug (other than tobacco and alcohol) in the past year. The past year prevalence of any drug use is estimated at 14.4 per cent (range 14.0 per cent - 14.8 per cent), corresponding to 14.3 million people aged 15-64 years who had used a psychoactive substance in the past year for non-medical purposes. Among every 4 drug users in Nigeria 1 is a woman. More men (annual prevalence of 21.8 per cent or 10.8 million men) than women (annual prevalence of 7.0 per cent or 3.4 million women) reported past-year drug use in Nigeria. The highest levels of any past-year drug use was among those aged 25-39 years. One of the important issues in Nigeria is terrorism. Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Nigeria. Attacks could be indiscriminate and could affect western interests, as well as places visited by tourists. Most attacks are conducted by Boko Haram or Islamic State West Africa (ISWA) and occur in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States in the North East.

Finally, the drug use survey has provided a comprehensive picture of the extent of drug use and related harms among the adult population in Nigeria. However, there is a need for a mechanism such as the establishment of a drug observatory that can regularly collate data and analyze the drug situation in the country to further inform policy and program development. The drug observatory could regularly monitor, through established indicators of drug use and supply, the emerging new drug threats, the implementation of regular drug use surveys in the general population and among youth, analysis of patterns of drug use among vulnerable population groups, and the monitoring of the extent and quality of responses to address the drug situation in the country . Terrorism raises the vote allocated to security. In an industrially and infrastructurally deficient economy, such monies could have been well utilized for development purposes. Ironically, since development cannot take place within a context of insecurity, these votes become a desideratum to raise the level of security formation so that economic and other activities can be sustained. The etiology of terrorism in Nigeria is traceable to a history of asymmetry in resource allocation and warped resource allocation formulae, marginalization of some groups within the Nigerian society, official and elite corruption, subjugation of minority groups and their rights, environmental pollution of the Niger Delta, the supply of arms and ammunition to political thugs who later metamorphose into terrorist armies, ethnic and religious rivalries and bigotry and the quest for selfdetermination by ethnic groups. While government must address the issues of corruption, youth unemployment, illiteracy of many citizens, poverty of the vulnerable sectors, poor healthcare, environmental pollution, poor governance processes and the different weaknesses of the state, already identified as the problems that initiated and have sustained the incidence of terrorism in Nigeria, it is important that government accedes to the request by interest groups within the polity to convene a truly national conversation to determine the terms of engagement of the nationalities that make up the Nigerian commonwealth.

**References:**  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/nigeria/terrorism>  
 https://www.umes.edu/uploadedFiles/\_WEBSITES/AJCJS/Content/VOL9.%20IMHONOPI%20%20FINAL.pdf