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72ND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE
REVIEW OF NIGERIA
16TH NOVEMBER, 2021

STATEMENT BY NIGERIA

Mr. Chair,

I thank you for this opportunity to introduce Nigeria's report today. Permit me, at this moment to also introduce members of the delegation of Nigeria:

- 1. Mr. M.B. Abubakar**, Director, Public Prosecutions, Federal Ministry of Justice
- 2. Hon. Olawale Fapohunda**, Vice-Chairman, National Committee Against Torture
- 3. Ms. Odunola Yetunde Oduwaiye**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nigeria in Geneva
- 4. Ms. Olatinuolawa Alison**, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 5. Mr. Donald Egbufor**, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 6. Mr. Una Matthew Odu**, Principal State Counsel, Federal Ministry of Justice
- 7. Ms. Okorie Maryam**, Principal State Counsel, Federal Ministry of Justice
- 8. Ms. Chaka-Nweze Gene**, State Counsel, Federal Ministry of Justice



9. **Ms. Banor Rose**, Schedule Officer, National Committee Against Torture.

2. Let me begin by restating the commitment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the work of this Committee and to commend United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT), for its continuous humanitarian efforts to protect the dignity of all persons, and its relentless fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. This demonstrates the commitment of the Committee to protect the human rights of all persons regardless of race, age, religion and gender.

Mr. Chair

3. Having ratified the Convention on the 28th June, 2001, and in pursuance of its obligations as a Party, Nigeria is committed to make her initial report on its efforts against Torture to this Committee. Nigeria sets up the National Committee Against Torture in 2009, in line with the obligation imposed by ratifying the Optional Protocol of United



Nations Convention against Torture. The National Committee Against Torture is a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) that operates as machineries for the prevention of Torture. The National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria also play a significant role in assisting victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

4. Over the next two days, the delegation of Nigeria will provide UNCAT with information on the efforts of Nigerian in the fight against Torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, including our focus on best practices, lesson learned thus far and proposed reforms.

5. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 prohibits torture and all form of inhumane and degrading treatment. To achieve the implementation of the human rights provision in the Constitution in concrete terms, the Government of Nigeria has developed a National Action Plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria. This plan essentially states specific measures to be adopted by government in protecting and promoting the rights of all Nigerians.

6. In response to concerns on the state of our correctional centers, the Government of Nigeria has embarked on a holistic reform of our criminal justice system. We have reformed the legal framework of the Nigerian Correctional Services. The new law responds to human rights concerns about the situation of persons in detention. The said reform also includes the enactment of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA). This Act places the rights of persons in conflict with the law at the heart of criminal justice system. In addition, Nigeria recently reviewed the law establishing the Nigerian Police Force. The new law emphasizes professionalism and adherence to the rule of law by the police in achieving its mandate.

7. We are currently embarking on the reform of the judiciary across the 36 States of the Federation. The Judicial (Financial Autonomy) Law which has been passed by majority of the 36 States of Nigeria, seek to provide additional guarantees for strengthening the independence of the judiciary. In addition, the National Human Rights Commission has been repositioned to provide speedy remedy for victims of torture, particularly the vulnerable and indigent.

8. The Government of Nigeria recognizes the important role of the Nigeria Armed Forces in responding to concerns of insurgency and terrorism in some parts the country. The government also recognizes that in the course of military operations issues of human rights violations may arise. It is for this reason, that the Nigeria Armed Forces undertake frequent seminars, workshops and continuous learning on

the rules of engagement. There is also established within the Nigeria Army formation nation-wide, human rights desks to facilitate immediate response to complaints of citizens on possible excesses by military personnel.

9. The Government of Nigeria also recently established a Judicial Panel of Inquiry to investigate the level of compliance of the Nigerian Armed Forces with its rules of engagement not only in areas of insurgency but in all parts of the country where the Nigerian Army operates.

10. On the issue of torture broadly, the attitude of the Government of Nigeria is to achieve prevention and in cases where torture occurs, provide speedy remedial measures.

11. In view of the aforesaid, we assure the readiness of Nigeria to remain engaged with the work of the committee to address issues related to the mandate of the committee

I Thank you.
