

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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DELEGATION**

**AT THE**

**FORMAL PRESENTATION OF NIGERIA'S SEVENTH/EIGHTH  
COMBINED REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS CEDAW COMMITTEE**

**GENEVA, 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017**

**Madam Chairperson,**

**Distinguished Members of the Committee**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, it is my honour and privilege to present the seventh/eighth combined report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Government commends the efforts of the Committee at ensuring the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; and takes very seriously the issues raised in the concluding comments on the previous Periodic Reports as well as the critical issues raised for clarification on the present combined report.

**The Seventh and Eighth Combined Report**

This report highlighted various measures taken and gave overview of progress made, constraints and challenges encountered in promoting and protecting women's rights in line with the provisions of the Convention from the reporting period of July 2006 to December 2014.

**Madam Chairperson,**

It may interest you to note that Nigeria has made some progress towards the implementation of the Convention since her last appearance before the Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

## **Measures Put in Place for the Implementation of CEDAW**

In compliance with paragraphs 312 to 313 of the Committee's 2008 concluding observations and recommendations on Nigeria's 6<sup>th</sup> report, Nigeria adopted, barely two months after the July 2008 appearance, the Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan of Action for operationalising the National Gender Policy. In addition, advocacy and awareness creation, legal reform, sectoral gender policy development, gender mainstreaming strategy by Ministries, Departments and Agencies, research and publications as well as judicial measures were adopted and still being used to ensure full implementation of CEDAW in Nigeria.

The results achieved by the measures put in place, though minimal, include the following legislative and policy instruments adopted at both federal and state levels to combat all forms of violence against women and the girl-child, stereotypes and negative cultural practices affecting women and children:

1. The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015, prohibits FGM, harmful widowhood practices, harmful traditional practices and all forms of violence against persons in both private and public life, and provides for maximum protection, effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders.
2. Lagos State Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2007.
3. Anambra State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law, 2007.
4. Cross-River State Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and FGM, 2009.
5. Ekiti State Gender Based Violence Prohibition Law, 2011.
6. Imo State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law, 2007.
7. National HIV/AIDS Anti-Stigma Act, 2014.

8. Jigawa State Gender Policy and Action Plan, 2013.
9. Ekiti State Gender Policy, 2011.
10. Lagos State Protection of People Living with HIV/AIDs an Affected by AIDS Law, 2007.

**Madam Chairperson,**

While detail analysis of the above measures put in place are contained in our main report and in our updated responses to the committee's concluding observations, permit me to highlight a few modest results from our efforts:

- **On women in political and public life:** In terms of quantity, the number of female political appointees rose from 10% in (2007-2011) to 33% in 2013-15, with the appointment of 13 female ministers out of 42, and 4 special advisers out of 18.
- More recently, out of 36 ministers, 6 are female (17%) and 13 out of 91 heads of agencies were female appointees (14.3%).
- Within this period 4 women were appointed Justices of the Supreme Court (25%); 15 female Judges out of 70 justices of the Court of Appeal were appointed (21.4%) and about 30% of the total State High Court Judges were female appointees.
- In terms of *quality*, within this period, Nigeria had her first female Chief Justice of Nigeria, President of the Court of Appeal, 5 states Female Chief Judges, the Head of civil service and the Acting Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

**Madam Chairperson,**

- On maternal health/reproductive and sexual health, the results achieved though quite modest, have been analysed in both the report and our responses. It is worth stating that the prevalence of HIV among pregnant women aged 15 – 24 years has steadily declined from 5.4% in 2000 to 4.1 in 2010.
- By the end of 2014, the number of health facilities that offer free anti-retroviral drugs stood at 1,057 compared to 143 in 2011.
- Nigeria’s unmet need for family planning increased from 17% in 2004 to 25.1% in 2012, but declined to 22.2% in 2014 by the MDG 2015 report. The contraceptive prevalent rate of 18.5% in 2014 was a marginal improvement over the 2012 rate of 17.3%.
- Reducing maternal mortality was among the MDG targets that have recorded appreciable progress. Between 2008 and 2015, MMR declined from 545 per 100,000 live births in 2008 to 350 in 2012 and 243 per 100,000 live births in 2014.
- Significant progress was also recorded in the case of antenatal coverage of at least one visit recorded an end point status of 68.9% in 2014, and for at least four visits, the result was 60.6% in 2014. Further, due to the effective implementation of the Midwives Services Scheme in rural areas, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel improved from a baseline figure of 45% in 1990 to the MDG end point status of 58.6% in 2014.

**Madam Chairperson,**

On displaced women, the official records show that over 100,000 persons died, 2.1 million people displaced as IDPs and property worth \$9bn destroyed by the Boko Haram insurgents in Borno state as at December 2016.

- July 2015 – August 2016: After months of delicate and complex negotiations with the Boko Haram insurgents over the 2014 abducted Chibok school girls, the Federal Government rescued initial 21 of them, and recently 82 more totalling 103, rehabilitated and reunited them with their families. The government promised to take care of their education and provide them jobs.
- In 2016, Government is continually rebuilding thousands of destroyed homes and resettling and rehabilitating about two (2) million IDPS. Pursuing aggressive policy of job creation through skills acquisition and establishment of agriculture-based factories.
- Also pursuing aggressive youth deradicalization programme in order to shield youths against extremism and intolerance.
- FADAMA III additional financing programme, supported by the World Bank, has begun distribution of 4 she-goats and one he-goat or 3 sheep and one ram to 5,320 households affected by Boko Haram insurgency in 133 communities of the 14 local governments in Yobe State.
- The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation reported (on Feb. 15, 2017) to have trained and empowered 8,800 returnee IDPS (women and youths) for dry season irrigation farming in three local government areas of Borno State.

- UNDP estimated that \$1bn (one billion dollars) is needed to rehabilitate about 6.9 million people affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East.
- The Federal Government signed a tripartite agreement with the UNHCR and the Republic of Cameroon for the protection of over 65,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon.

### **Madam Chairperson**

Before we enter into dialogue, I would like to once again reaffirm Nigeria's full commitment to the implementation of the convention and reiterate her dedication to the reporting process to this distinguished committee. Nigeria believes the Convention is a critical barometer against which we assess our own progress in view of the fact that the elimination of discrimination against women benefits the society as a whole.

I am indeed glad that each reporting period has been opportunity for Nigeria to report on progress being slowly but steadily made towards eliminating discrimination against women. In spite of challenges, the Nigerian Government is engaged and committed to achieving gender equality, women empowerment and improvement of the situation of the less privileged members of our society most of whom happened to be women.

My delegation and I look forward to a fruitful dialogue today.

I thank you for your kind attention.