



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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BY

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PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

AT THE

**SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
AGENDA ITEM 85
ON THE
RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Let me at the outset state that Nigeria aligns herself with the statements made by the African Group, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC).

We thank the Secretary-General for his report of 29th July 2013 pursuant to GA Resolution 67/97 on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. I also express my delegation's appreciation to the Deputy-Secretary-General for his incisive delivery.

Nigeria welcomes the detailed and in-depth analysis of concrete projects and initiatives undertaken by the UN to strengthen specific aspects of the Rule of Law to better reflect a system – wide approach.

My delegation is happy with the outcome of the High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law held on 24th September 2012 and endorses the Declaration that the rule of law is "an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful and just world".

Our leaders, by this declaration reaffirmed their commitments to the Rule of Law and linked it with the three (3) pillars of the United Nations namely Peace and Security, Human Rights and Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman

I wish to place on record that Nigeria has fulfilled the pledge she made during the 2012 Treaty Event. On 24th September, 2013, she

deposited two Legal Instruments of Accession namely; International Convention against the taking of Hostages and; International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, to buttress her commitment to treaty obligation. This delegation reiterates the request by our leaders that there be an interrelationship between the Rule of Law and Development, not forgetting the post-2015 Development Agenda. We hereby, call on States that made pledges during the Treaty Event to take steps to fulfill their obligations to the UN Convention.

In addition to addressing the issue of justice, equality and equity, good governance and Democracy, due consideration should be given to promoting the rights and empowerment of women and girls, in order to nip in the bud any such violent, degrading and depriving rights. It is our opinion that respect for rule of law would bequeath democratic dividends to our citizenry and ensure socio-economic advancement.

This delegation notes that the focus of this current session is **The Rule of Law and the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes**. We however, observe the insufficient use of the various methods of settling legal disputes by States as enunciated in Article 33 to 38 of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria as a role model, in choosing peace in lieu of war, has through the classical case between **Cameroon V Nigeria** over a parcel of Land situate in Bakassi adhered without any exception to the judgment of the

ICJ. I am pleased to inform this meeting that this August 2013, Nigeria completed both withdrawal and handing over of Bakassi Peninsula to the Government of Cameroon. It is our fervent desire that all States which have not yet recognized the role of the principal Judicial Organ of the UN, the ICJ for peaceful settlement of disputes between States should become Parties without further delay or indeed choose any other form of method as stipulated in Article 33 to 38 of Chapter VI of the UN Charter for amicable settlement of international disputes. This is of utmost necessity if we are to contribute to international peace and security.

In conclusion, it is pertinent to recall that the Declaration adopted during the High Level Meeting in 2012, requested the Secretary-General to submit his Annual Report on United Nations Rule of Law activities. This delegation therefore awaits the outcome of the ways and means by which the Secretary General intends to underscore the synergy between the Rule of Law and the three pillars of the United Nations, peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development. We believe that the outcome document would assist states in choosing the method to adopt in addressing the challenges emanating from the plethora of conflicts confronting states.

I thank you.