



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

**65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

**THIRD COMMITTEE
DEBATE ON ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

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Mr. Chairperson,

The Nigerian delegation wishes to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that, with your wealth of experience and able leadership the work of the Committee will come to a successful conclusion. Our delegation therefore assures you of its cooperation.

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports contained in documents A/65/204, A/65/208, A/65/209, A/65/218, A/65/268 and A/65/334 on this agenda item. Similarly, I will like to congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Under Secretary General, UN Women for her appointment and comprehensive introductory statement. We assure her of Nigeria's support and cooperation as she takes on the challenges of her new assignment.

Mr. Chairperson,

Nigeria aligns herself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China.

We are pleased to report that over the years, and particularly in the past one year, Nigeria, like many Member States, continues to make substantial progress on the issue of advancement of women, by putting women at the heart of her development agenda. This has been made possible by a combination of factors namely; Government's demonstrated political will, sustained dialogue and advocacy by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Civil Society and development partners. Consequently, the issues of women empowerment, gender equality and mainstreaming have gained prominence in sectoral programmes of government and now shaping decision-making processes at all levels of governance.

Nigeria attaches utmost importance to the issue of women development and is committed to the full and effective implementation of the various international instruments on gender equality and women advancement and particularly, the CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly that ushered in the new international perspectives for the advancement of women. In

Nigeria today, there is an active and enhanced participation of women's civil societies in the monitoring and evaluation of National and International Initiatives including the implementation of several reforms as they affect women. Nigeria is focused on the implementation of its adopted National Gender Policy and its Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year's celebration of the 10th anniversary of both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security represents a concerted effort to advance the global, regional and national agenda for the empowerment and security of women, including protection and survival for children among others. The Implementation of these lofty goals has led to Nigeria's efforts at combating maternal and child morbidity and mortality, HIV/AIDs, poverty, improved access and retention of women and girls in schools and increased women participation in governance to mention but a few. For instance, the ratio of girls' enrolment in primary school in 2008 rose to 79.9% as against 75.4% in 2000. In the same vein, the number of women in national parliament increased from 3.1% in 2003 to 9.7% in 2007.

The Maternal Mortality Rate has also dropped from 1,500 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 704 in 2003 and 545 in 2008. Through the combined efforts of stakeholders supported by Debt Relief Gains, a Midwives Service Scheme has in the last one year trained and deployed 2,819 midwives to 652 primary health care facilities linked to 163 general hospitals across the country. The Scheme was also complimented with the launch of a model quality health service delivery intervention programme in 2009 to provide essential medical supplies and ambulances to the Primary Health Care facilities in the rural areas. There are provisions in the 2010 Federal Budget for rural areas in Nigeria, crucial among which are Obstetric Fistula/VVF and provision for income generating equipment for the economic empowerment of the VVF patients.

Nigeria's quest for gender equality and accountability has led to Government's approval in March 2010 of the establishment of Gender Units in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies. This is a new institutional mechanism

geared towards repositioning women and gender development issues in the country which, it is hoped, will enable us achieve better results.

Mr. Chairperson,

While acknowledging the gains that Nigeria has recorded so far, we are still faced with a number of challenges in the full implementation of some international conventions and instruments for the Advancement of Women. In this regard, the domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), among others, is one of such challenges facing the country.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, I wish to express the Nigerian delegation's belief that with the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the MDGs and the UNSC Resolution 1325, the time has come for women to not only set the agenda but re-evaluate various commitments for tangible impacts. With the establishment and take off of the UN Women by 1st January 2011, It is hoped that necessary technical and financial support to complement national efforts would be put in place. We therefore call for improved technical support from our international development partners, the UN Women and allied agencies and Civil Society Organizations to facilitate accelerated delivery of the women agenda.

I thank you for your kind attention.