



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

ON

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

BY

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WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 64TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, October 13, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to express my Government's commendation of the efforts of the UN Secretary General as well as the Division for the Advancement of Women towards the promotion and protection of the rights of women. In the same vein, I align with the statement made by Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The 64th Session of the UN General Assembly presents us with an opportunity to review the progress and challenges in our quest for the advancement of women and gender equality.

My Government believes that the full implementation of internationally agreed commitments

positions. Currently, the number of female senior civil servants is put at 22.5%, while judicial appointments across the 36 States of the Federation constitute about 30%. A marginal increase has also been witnessed in ~~the number of female representation~~

in politics is still relatively low.

Mr. Chairman,

To further promote women's rights, a National Action Plan on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria was developed by the Government and deposited with the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva in July 2009, with a chapter devoted to the rights of women and children. A National Policy on Sexual Harassment in Educational Institutions has also been put in place. All sectors of the Nigerian society, including Civil Society Groups and the Mass Media, are all united in the quest to ensure a society devoid of violence against women. Temporary shelters including free medical treatments for female ~~victims of domestic and sexual violence~~ are being established nationwide, with stringent measures and

Similarly, my Government has intensified advocacy and Social mobilization for Policy Makers in States, and for Parliamentarians, Communities, Traditional Rulers and Civil Society organizations. These are in addition to Baseline Study on Maternal Health Indicators and the Survey on Strategic Social Framework on Reduction of Maternal and Child Deaths. Training of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's) has also been upscaled to meet the challenges at the grassroot levels.

I wish to put on record the commendable efforts of Nigeria's First Lady, H. E. Hajiya (Dr.) Turai Yar'Adua in advancing the course of women through initiatives such as high level advocacy in maternal and child health, the economic empowerment of women and youths, as well as peace initiatives within and outside the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Global partnership and effective national coordination remain critical challenges to the advancement of women. To ameliorate this, we have adopted a National Gender Policy with its Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan to strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. There has also been an active and enhanced participation of women's civil society in the monitoring and evaluation of national, regional and international initiatives in the country, including the formulation and revision of domestic laws, policies and regulations as they affect women.

While acknowledging various gains that have been made, there are still some gaps in the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and other international instruments on the advancement of women.

In the light of the foregoing, improved technical and financial support from development partners is key to the achievement of the goal of advancing the interest and welfare of women and girls. My delegation wishes to express its support for the 'Resolution for a New United Nations Gender Equality entity based on the Composite Model' as a veritable model for the UN, and for global action, in favour of women. We urge other delegations to do likewise.

I thank you.