



**WILPF REPORT ON UPR:
NIGERIA**
(11th HRC Session - 11 June 2009)

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1. NIGERIA
(Ambassador Mr. E.E. Onobu)

Wished to affirm that a substantial number of recommendations have already been implemented by the Government. Nigeria has held a convention on the punishment of genocide as well as a convention against torture. Meetings have been organized on the distribution of natural resources, fairness of political appointments and concerning minority rights. Nigeria is proud of its ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. The liberal nature of Nigeria is said to provide a ground to promote cultural and linguistic rights. The Government continues to address issues in certain areas of the country: offering amnesty for all involved in activities in the Niger delta; establishing and strengthening national empowerment, development strategies and local government empowerment groups; making sure all employable people are fully engaged and working to create jobs in order to eradicate poverty (particular focus on rural areas).

Nigeria has set up a national committee to review the death penalty. The UPR is said to have great potential in the years to come to enhance human rights both nationally and globally. Nigeria has just been reelected into the council and has strengthened Nigeria's commitment to ensure peace. The Government is determined to honor all commitments made during the UPR process and in this, asked for encouragement and support of the Human Rights Council. The Representative paid tribute to the Human Rights Council. Nigeria will continue to cooperate and support the council in order to protect human rights for all.

2. COUNTRY RESPONSES

Pakistan

Expressed that honest dialogue is a hallmark of the Nigerian delegation. Thanked Nigeria for their clarity and honesty. The Nigerian commitment to protection of human rights is said to be explicit, both at home and in Geneva. Especially commended on the recent ratification of the rights of persons with disabilities and police and prison reforms.

Venezuela

Grateful to Nigeria for the presentation and shown clear commitment to the protection of human rights, cooperating openly with the UPR and investigating all aspects of their

country. Thanked the Delegation for answering all of Venezuelan's questions about educational initiatives. Recommended that the report should be adopted.

Qatar

Welcomed Nigeria and thanked them for their accurate and detailed responses to the questions that were submitted. Appreciated the enhanced efforts to end corruption and trafficking in order to provide more human rights for its citizens.

Belarus

Recommended Nigeria to continue to combat trafficking of humans, especially women and children and enhance the primary and secondary education system. Commended Nigeria for agreeing to implement Belarus' recommendations, as well as recommendations from other countries.

China

Commended Nigeria for adopting a positive and open position in promoting and protecting human rights, speaking frankly about difficulties in the human rights field and thus creating a field for positive dialogue. China expressed to be convinced Nigeria will continue to overcome difficulties and asked the international community to help the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious State meet their goals. Recommended the report to be adopted.

Algeria

Saw the commitment of Nigeria to human rights in general; both domestically and through involvement in the Human Rights Council. Emphasised the great advances in education, health and poverty which have been made. Finally, they wished Nigeria every success in implementing the recommendations.

Egypt

Welcomed Mr. Onobu and thanked him for his detailed presentation. Highlighted important advances in terms of the Millennium Development Goals. Expressed confidence that Nigeria will continue to pursue efforts for human rights while maintaining a rich and cultural diverse society.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Delegation thanked the Nigerian Delegation for the statement delivered in regard to the UPR. Convinced that Nigeria is keen on benefiting from the UPR process; in showing their voluntary participation and reaffirming the importance of this international instrument. Nigeria was able to make great strides in order to provide additional protection of human rights.

Kazakhstan

Welcomed Mr. Onobu and congratulated Nigeria. Expressed that the UPR of Nigeria was a wonderful experience, effective in assessing the overall human rights situation in the country. During the international dialogue Members and Observers have learned of the difficulties Nigeria faces, and has heard their plans to combat these difficulties and achieve their goals.

Bahrain

Thanked and welcomed Ambassador Onobu. The UPR noted Nigeria's commitment to human rights internally and at an international level. Especially expressed to be impressed with efforts to combat the trafficking of human beings.

United States of America

Thanked the Nigerian Delegation and thanked them for their participation in the human rights process. Emphasised that torture and abuse of detainees are still severe problems in Nigeria. Expressed support for recommendations made by the Human Rights Commission. Supported the Ministry created to help those dealing with violence and crime in the Delta region (especially minority groups).

Senegal

Emphasised that the Nigerian government has made many efforts to improve the human rights situation in their country. Convinced that the implementation of new recommendations will benefit from the support of the international community.

3. NGO INPUT

Amnesty International

Recognized Nigeria's willingness to cooperate and continuance of their self-imposed moratorium of the death penalty. Would like this moratorium to become formal.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Made statement on behalf of Gay and Lesbian groups. Stated that all Nigerians should be protected. Recalled that the Nigerian President said there are no gay people or groups in Nigeria but that if there were, they would have the same rights. This is not true. The Government denies any knowledge of abuses against gay people in the country. Asked government to repeal any criminal charges against the LGBT community.

Cerle de Recherche sur les Driots et les Devoirs de la Personne Humaine

While they have made advances, Nigeria still has a long way to go in terms of meeting their international human rights commitments. Nigeria has yet to ratify the optional protocol on the rights of the child. Nigeria has failed to protect housing in their country. We request the Nigerian Government to accept ALL the recommendations, including number 12 and 13. Expressed to be particularly concerned about the religious violence and the violence in the Delta.

Joint Statement: Interfaith International/AI Hakim

Congratulated the Delegation on the advances Nigeria made in human rights. Nigeria is both culturally and ethnically rich. Acceptance of 30 recommendations needs to be given affect at the political and government levels in Nigeria. Wants the Government of Nigeria to establish a framework for national dialogue in accordance and investment of transnational corporations drawn up by the UN. Urged the government to sponsor inter-religious dialogue, which could help decrease the violence against women in the North.

International Human Rights Association of American Minorities

Expressed that Nigeria still has a long way to go. Congratulated the Government on setting up a Human Rights Commission, but it must be free from governmental control. If they cannot hold the government accountable then it loses all credibility. The Nigerian Government is pressured to end the death penalty. Prisoners are not always given a fair

trial. The NGO recalled that Nigeria still has the deplorable practice of not allowing people given the death penalty the chance to appeal.

Arab Commission for Human Rights

Thanked Nigeria for their replies and information. Welcomed their acceptance of many of the recommendations, especially those in terms of torture and rights for migrants. Recommended Nigeria to agree to implement recommendation number 14 (made by Benin and Germany) for the adoption of a complete legislation against torture, especially for the police.

Islamic Human Rights Commission

Stated that the Government of Nigeria is in breach of international human rights and does not respect the due process of its citizens. Nigeria does not inform prisoners of their rights and does not offer the option to appeal. Many people remain in detention without being tried. The Nigerian Government should launch a transparent investigation to guarantee the right to equality before the law and right to a fair trial.

4. RESPONSE NIGERIA

Nigeria is fully committed to protecting the human rights of all of its citizens. Expressed the wish to commend all Delegations on their constructive help during the process. Said to look forward to the next review in four years.