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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

32ND REGULAR SESSION

AGENDA: PANEL ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT:

15 JUNE 2016

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA**

**Mr President,**

Nigeria commends the distinguished panelists for their incisive perspective on the subject matter particularly as we mark the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development. The right to development is a fundamental right that embodies social, political, cultural and economic rights. By its adoption thirty years ago, nation states not only commit to the fundamental principles of the UN Charter but also align their national priorities to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. We believe that the responsibility to promote this right does not reside on individual states alone given its universality and its applicability. At the national level, states have a duty to actualize this right by providing the enabling environment and enacting laws and policies that ensure people have access to basic resources, education, employment, medical care, decent housing, basic infrastructure and good health care delivery measures that enhance peoples’ development.

3. As a developing country, Nigeria considers the right to development an inalienable right of fundamental significance that is central to our very existence and key to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In achieving this agenda, the right to development must be given primacy of place by states and made to be within the reach of every individual.

Mr. President,

4. The Right to Development is a shared responsibility whose recognition must be assessed in the light of the growing inequality and poverty resulting from State policies and other exogenous factors such as climate change, natural disasters, violent extremism, social unrest and deprivation. We agree with those views that have placed the right to development at par with all other human rights. However, where asymmetries in international trade still remain between developed and developing countries, the right to development is greatly impared particularly in developing and Least developed countries.

5. Besides, illicit financial assets stashed abroad, deprive States resources required to progressively realize the right to development. This is why we call on this Council to lend its voice in addressing the negative impact of the non-repatriation of illicit assets to their countries of origin. Nigeria has placed the fight against corruption in front in the realization of the right to development.

6. My delegation wishes to reiterate that without realizing these rights, majority of people cannot enjoy socio-economic and cultural rights. We believe that participation and the fair distribution of developmental benefits must be given primacy by both national governments and the international community.

7. Finally, Nigeria calls on States to renew their commitment to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international instruments that uphold the right to development.

I thank you.

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