

WG on UPR
17th session
Geneva, 22 October 2013

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the delegation of Nigeria and thank for its all-inclusive and comprehensive statement.

Azerbaijan congratulates Nigeria for its continued accession to the core international human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and others. Nigeria also fully and successfully cooperates with the mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and is taking appropriate measures for the improvement of the submission of its periodic reports to the UN treaty bodies, such as the establishment of Inter-Ministerial National Working Group on Human Rights Treaty Reporting in 2010. We recommend Nigeria to continue its ongoing cooperation with the international human rights system of the United Nations.

The Government has made concerted efforts since 2009 to strengthen human rights institutions by amending the National Human Rights Commission Act, the Legal Aid Act, and the Law Reform Commission Act. In that regard, we are glad to know that relevant legislative reforms has enabled Human Rights Commission to regain its 'A' status in 2011 at the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. We would recommend Nigeria to continue its measures with a view of strengthening the investigative and enforcement powers of the Human Rights Commission.

We are also aware of the impact of externally-induced internal security challenges manifesting in the activities of militant insurgents and organized crime groups which has led to the violation of human rights of many Nigerians. In that regard, we are fully convinced in the ability and measures of the Government of Nigeria to counter and eliminate these threats, such as the development of a Counter Terrorism Strategy and the enactment of the Terrorism Prevention Act 2011. We recommend Nigeria to continue its successful and productive measures in this field.

Finally, we should also bear in mind that as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious country, Nigeria faces a number of challenges on its path towards the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Thank you for attention.