

Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Seventeenth Session**

Review of Nigeria

**Statement by
Ambassador Wafaa Bassim
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
and other international organizations in Geneva**

(Geneva, 22nd of October 2013)

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Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the delegation of Nigeria and commend the elaborate presentation it made to the UPR Working Group today. Egypt notes the extensiveness of the consultations the Nigerian government conducted in preparation of its national report, which demonstrates its will to interact positively with the international human rights system, particularly the universal periodic review mechanism.

We have studied what was mentioned in the report and we welcome the strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission by amending the National Human Rights Commission Act in 2010 to grant the Commission operational and financial independence and to enhance its investigative and enforcement powers. We also welcome the strengthening of the democratic process and the entrenchment of a culture of respect for human rights, through amending the 1999 Constitution three times between 2010 and 2011 in order to grant financial autonomy to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to enable it to perform optimally as well as to enhance the electoral processes.

We believe that Nigeria has been a responsible member of the Human Rights Council, and in that vein, Egypt presents the following recommendations ~~to the Council~~ hoping that it will consider adopting them:

- 1- To adopt a national policy on children with disabilities and to ensure access to education and health services for all children with disabilities.
- 2- To ensure access to education for girls and prevent early school dropout, including by reinforcing the Federal Government of Nigeria Gender Education Project.
- 3- To strengthen its policies to provide care and support for children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly those orphaned.
- 4- To strengthen its cooperation with civil society and undertake a review of its involvement in the provision of core social services for children.

I thank you.