



**STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE REVIEW
OF NIGERIA**

17TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP

22 OCTOBER 2013

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Mr President,

We warmly welcome the delegation of Nigeria to the 17th Session of the Working Group. We congratulate Nigeria on the submission of their national report and also appreciate the update provided during the presentation.

We appreciate that the national report sets out Nigeria's vision for the promotion and protection of the human rights of its citizens. It is clear from the priorities identified that the Government remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under international human rights law, notwithstanding the obstacles and constraints present.

Following the acceptance of the recommendation to invest in education in order to reduce illiteracy rates, especially among girls and young women during the 1st cycle, Nigeria has put in place a number of provisions to promote qualitative education for Nigerians at all levels. **South Africa recommends that Nigeria continues to prioritise policies and programmes aimed ensuring sustainable growth of the education sector.**

The expectations of Nigeria in relation to technical assistance are also clearly outlined in the report. A number of key areas are identified by the Government which would assist in the promotion and protection of the human rights of the citizens of Nigeria. South Africa calls on the international community to assist Nigeria with the requested capacity building and technical assistance.

Mr President,

Nigeria remains an important member of African Union and as a founding member of NEPAD has contributed greatly to the development of the Continent. Through programmes such as their Vision 20:2020 the Government continues to displays its aspirations to improve the Nation as a whole and thus continuing to contribute to the advancement of the Continent.

I thank you.