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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**43RD SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UPR REVIEW OF MALI**

**2ND MAY, 2023**

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA**

***Mr. President***,

Nigeria warmly welcomes the delegation of the brotherly Republic of Mali to the presentation of its National Report and commends the efforts of the Government towards the implementation of previous recommendations, as well as its continuous cooperation with Human Rights mechanism.

2. Nigeria takes positive note of the concerted efforts of the Malian Government in establishing transitional justice through the adoption of a national policy and related action plan, as well as measures to combat impunity, as it works stridently on national reconciliation and peace The adoption of National Security Sector Reform Strategy and its action plan 2022 - 2024 for implementation by the Malian Government is also noteworthy.

3. While acknowledging efforts by Mali in upholding human rights and cognizant of the need for improvement, and in the spirit of constructive engagement, Nigeria wishes to recommend the following:

* Resist pressure to further liberalize abortion and instead implement laws aimed at protecting the right to life of the unborn; and
* Ensure the full and equal enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief of all persons..

4. In conclusion, we wish Mali every success in its review.

I thank you.

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