

**Statement of the Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations
after the Chair withdrew her proposal for a resolution on the theme of
“Realizing the Future We want: Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable
Development, including in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

Forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 17 April 2015

Distinguished Chair,

We came to this meeting with an open mind and readiness to engage constructively in the advancement of the United Nation's mandate on development. In particular, we came with the hope of discussing and agreeing on substantive issues and how population and development could be discussed realistically, and achievable targets and goals could be set, for further mainstreaming into the spectrum of the UN's development activities and policies, with notable linkages to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Our expectations for positive engagement, and the constructive spirit with which we came to this meeting apparently did not receive a reciprocal treatment. Instead, we were met from the outset with impossible scenarios and difficult choices in the form of the Facilitator's Text that was placed before us. To our surprise, the Text contained various issues that were not relevant to the Theme of the Conference which was population and development and the P2015DA.

Rather than address the core development issues and matters that could help contextualize population issues in the P2015DA, we were confronted with a Text that was replete with controversial issues that have in the past, not only proved difficult to deal with, but also extremely divisive in nature.

The issues that we find objectionable and difficult to agree on are very well known to all those present. Therefore we do not have to mention them. Rather, we wish to reiterate our position that in the interest of consensus and harmony in foras such as the CSW, the CPD etc, the Secretariat and other stakeholders should kindly refrain from infusing draft texts submitted for negotiation with languages on which there is no consensus.

Most especially, there should not be deviation from the universally agreed concepts relative to human rights, that were arrived at in the UN intergovernmental processes with the full participation of Member States, free from all undue influences, pressure and coercion.

We wish also to call upon the UN and all its agencies to play their given roles conscientiously and objectively, without showing preference to subjective issues and positions that are advocated by one dominant group of countries in the UN system. The UN is for all countries great and small. As such it should not be used as platform to advocate tendencies, ideologies or ways of life that are at variance with its core principles and mandates.

We shall continue to remain seized with issues of development, poverty eradication, climate change, human rights, the dignity of families and persons, as well as the importance of

advocating policies that support national development. In this regard, the success of this meeting must not be determined or judged by the adoption of a text or the failure to do so. Rather, it should be seen as a success in the sense that members states have resisted the imposition of unhelpful ideas and concepts on the entire UN system.

We thank the Bureau, the Secretariat and all members of the Commission for their dedication and interest. In particular, we thank the Ambassador/PR of the Republic of Zambia for her able representation of the African group. We thank all CSO for their continued and abiding interest in the work of the Commission, we shall continue to welcome their views and opinions at all times.

We thank all delegations of members states for their commitment to deepening the UN multilateral process and look forward to continued engagement with each and everyone of them in order to constructively and transparently work towards the world we want.