

**Statement of the Mission of Nigeria (on behalf of the African Group) to the United Nations
before the adoption of the resolution on**

“New trends in migration: demographic aspects”

**46th session of the Commission on Population and Development
of the United Nations Economic and Social Council**

New York, 26 April 2013

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the African Group, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Your Excellency and the facilitator (**EDUARDO**) as well as the Secretariat for successfully guiding us through this process.

Although the negotiation was protracted, the African Group engaged others constructively and through your experience and expertise, you managed to facilitate deliberations to arrive at a consensus document.

As YE is no doubt aware, the African Group is part of the G77 and China and we align with the statement delivered by the representative of FIJI on behalf of the Group.

Mr. President,

The issue of migration is important to the African Group. Migrants, regardless of their status make significant contribution to their countries of origin and destination. In Africa, remittance flows from migrants constitute an important source of private capital and transfer earnings. We therefore stress the need to harness the opportunities of migration as well as address the challenges faced by migrants.

We join others in the spirit of consensus to accept the text and we thank YE for your tireless efforts at bringing us to such comprehensive document on the important issue of migration. However, while we recognize the importance of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, we have noted that the text we about to adopt accord much prominence to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and less attention to basic rights such as rights to food, education, training, employment, adequate housing and health. We want to

underline that reference to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights must be in accordance with ICPD.

Finally, on a lighter note, we would like to congratulate our facilitator a happy wedding anniversary.

I thank you.