

STATEMENT

BY

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ON

**SUSTAINABLE CITIES, HUMAN MOBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
(NATIONAL EXPERIENCE)**

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Mr. Chairman

May I extend Nigeria's sincere congratulations to the Chair and members of his Bureau for the excellent and transparent conduct of the session. Please be assured of my delegation's support and cooperation during your tenure.

Nigeria aligns itself with the Statements delivered on behalf of the G77 and China and the Africa group. We commend the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports on the theme and related matters, which provide insight to wide range of issues prompting articulation of ideas for interventions, innovative solutions and multi-dimensional policies to address the focus of this session at all levels.

Mr. Chair

Urbanization and migration are twin events that are rapid, very frequent and beyond the capacity of governments in developing countries to keep the pace and address the challenges. The cohorts of population mostly engaged in this exercise are young people of teenage/adolescents' girls and boys, women of child bearing age and the working age population. Urbanization is a progressive, dynamic, inevitable and in some cases irreversible universal activity that impacts hugely on the lives and well-being of these population groups.

Mr. Chair

Nigeria remains the most populous in Africa, the seventh globally with an estimated population of over 198 million. The recent World Population Prospects predicts that by 2050, Nigeria will become the 3rd most populated country in the world. Over the last 50 years, the Nigeria's urban population has grown at an average annual growth rate of more than 6.5 percent without commensurate increase in social amenities and infrastructure. It grew substantially from 17.3 in 1967 to 49.4% in 2017. In addition, the 2014 World Urbanization Prospects report, predicts that by 2050; most of the population (about

70 percent) will be residing in cities. The 2010 human mobility Survey report revealed that 23 percent of the sampled population were of more females than males.

Existing urbanization trend coupled with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in cities, pose critical challenges to securing sustainability of our cities, including efforts to make them smart and responsive to human influx. The Displacement Tracking Matrix round XXI of January 2018 identified 1.7 million (1,782,490) IDPs in over 321,580 households across six states of North-East Nigeria with 40 percent residing in camp-like settings in urban areas plus 1.4 million Returnees. The number of IDPs represented 4.5 percent increase compared to the 1,702,680 identified in Round XX (Dec' 2017).

Like in other developing countries, Nigerian cities host wide spread poverty, under-employment and unemployment at an average of 18.4 percent (NBS, 2017), insecurity and inadequate/inequitable health care services for Adolescents and women of child bearing age. These challenges, adversely impact on the quality of life/standards of living of the urban populace and in addition create poor environmental, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health including nutrition and high fertility outcomes despite our quest for achieving demographic dividend.

Mr. Chair

Nigeria stays committed to the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda - adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world. Effective planning to manage rural-urban human mobility, necessitates Nigeria to develop counter measures ahead of increasing population in the country and to manage the cities to meet the Sustainable Development Goals of making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

In this regard, Nigeria is poised to ensure sustainable urban management and development on the principles of good governance to plan and respond equitably to enormous current and future

challenges within the context of the New Urban Agenda and other global agreements.

Policy Interventions: Nigeria acknowledges the importance of providing sustainable safe, affordable and inclusive settlement across our cities including addressing reproductive health/family planning needs of urban households as an important step to controlling rapid population growth and guaranteeing quality health and living. These intentions are expressly clear in the National Urban Development Policies for Nigeria 2006 and the National Migration Policy 2015 designed to reduce incidences of irregular migration, provide mechanism to protect and monitor the well-being of Nigerians abroad and that of foreign migrants within Nigeria. It is also designed to ensure remittances become one of the top three sources of foreign exchange.

Mr. Chair

Nigeria elicits global commitment to address International Migration to benefit both developed and developing countries by ensuring skills development for the teeming young migrants. Also, of importance is technology transfer, strengthening of statistical institutional capacity to capture and provide real time disaggregated data on urbanization and migration. Such data would inform policies and governance to take advantage of the opportunities and adequately respond to the challenges.

Nigeria continues to commit to solving the challenges of insurgents in the Northeast, which has induced a high number of internally displaced persons. We acknowledge that women, Children and particularly the girl child are often the most vulnerable in these displacements, and in this regard, we remain focused on the wellbeing of these vulnerable parts of our population, we are committed to providing adequate health care services, reducing maternal mortality, rebuilding safe schools and empowering our women, ensuring no one is left behind in terms of achieving sustainable development.

I thank you!