

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT

BY

**GEORGE EDOKPA
AMBASSADOR / DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

“Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development”

AT THE

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Mr. Chairman

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. My delegation congratulates you and members of your Bureau on your appointment and pledges Nigeria's support and cooperation towards the successful conduct of this session.

2. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global economies has undoubtedly disrupted the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable and reduced the gross domestic product of particularly the developing countries. For this reason, Nigeria appreciates the significance of the theme of this Session "Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development"

3. Nigeria recognizes the nexus of population to food security and nutrition and its relevance to ensuring sustainable food and agricultural systems as fundamental elements for securing the wellbeing of our people now and into the future. Food insufficiency therefore, negatively impacts on the development of people, community and nation. Achieving sustainable economic development and harnessing the first and second demographic dividend in Africa remains an illusion without well-nourished and healthy people.

4. Nigeria's population remains the largest in Africa and 7th in the world. The prevailing global health and economic crises have also brought about deepening food insufficiency and hunger to the vulnerable populations in the country. In addition, the scale of violence and threat to life in parts of the country has left large numbers of displaced people, especially women and children, without access to food. The chronic malnutrition associated with micronutrients' deficiencies raises concerns on maternal and child health nutrition and poses a huge public health concern.

5. My delegation views this Session as a veritable platform for identifying successes and best practices as well as opportunities through constructive engagements and experience sharing on appropriate ways to address these unprecedented challenges. Therefore, the Federal Government of Nigeria put in place a systematic policy strategy to trigger an economic response to the enormity of the situation to reduce hunger and malnutrition and consequently address the health threats posed to its population. Some of these strategies include:

- Implementation of an Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA, 2011-2015) to reintroduce sustainable agriculture hinged on business-like attitude driven by the private sector;
- National Agricultural and Food Security Strategy embedded in the ATA, focused on increased food and nutrition security;
- National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (2014-2019);
- National Policy on Food and Nutrition (2016) to address malnutrition and extreme hunger across different levels of our society for an overall national development;
- Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025);
- On-going implementation of Africa's largest national school feeding programme which is a key part of Nigeria's human capital development agenda, that aims to tackle the broader issues of poverty eradication, food and nutrition security and reduction in the number of Out-of-School Children; and
- Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017-2020), with attention on Agricultural Transformation and Food Security.

6. I also wish to underscore that Nigeria is committed to ensuring greater agricultural yield through the provision of various capacity building schemes for small-holder farmers to ensure they are adequately equipped to respond to the rapid population growth and enable

sustainable food production. Another area is the Government's implementation of targeted effective nutrition policies for children and pregnant/lactating mothers with a view to ensuring community and household resilience at coping with unexpected shocks as well as prioritization of empowerment programmes for women and the rural poor.

Mr. Chair,

7. In conclusion, Nigeria calls on the global community to adopt appropriate strategies for the prevention and management of maternal and child under nutrition in Africa, particularly for those in conflict situations and humanitarian spaces as a priority. Nigeria will continue to collaborate with relevant stakeholders and the United Nations System to address concerns of Food Insecurity and Nutrition.

8. I thank you.
