

High-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels
Pledge registration form

The Federal Republic of Nigeria hereby pledges that:-

By the year 2013, the Federal Republic of Nigeria will ratify the following United Nations Terrorism Instruments:-

1. Convention Against the taking of Hostage, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 17th December, 1979 and
2. International Convention for the Suppression of terrorist Bombings, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 15th December, 1997.

In a view to implement the provisions of the UN Terrorism Instruments and to establish jurisdiction over terrorism offences, the Federal Republic of Nigeria enacted into law, the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, in 2011. The Terrorism Act already in its Section 9 creates the offence of international terrorism in tandem with the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings while its Section 11 criminalizes the offence of hostage taking in line with the Convention Against the Taking of Hostages.

To further demonstrate the political will on the part of our Government, in addition to already institutionalized body put in place to combat these threats to the maintenance of international peace and security, Nigeria is on the verge of adopting National Counter-Terrorism Strategy which will detail the framework, measures, and strategies to be adopted by Nigeria at concretely Combating Terrorism and the Financing of Terrorism and fully implementing provisions of the United Nations, International and other Regional Terrorism Instruments. The proposed measures will include amongst others:

- a. Ensuring accountability for terrorist offences;
- b. Designing the mode of seeking international cooperation and assistance to develop relevant national capacity and
- c. Budget for high level training of our law enforcement agencies and the Nigerian Judiciary at fighting the menace
- d. These activities would be coordinated by the National Focal Point on Terrorism.

(Note: Pledge should include specific dates)

Proposed implementation steps (in 2013 or if later, please specify - _____):

Pledging State: **NIGERIA**

Contact information for responsible official(s):

Full name: H.E. Prof. Joy U. Ogwu,

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Date: 19th September, 2012.

Place: New York.

Signature:

Additional contact information for person/service/institution in charge of follow-up:

Federal Ministry of Justice, Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.

Return Information:

Please submit this Pledge registration form to the Rule of Law Unit (email: rule-of-law@un.org or fax: +1-212-963-2030).



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**ADDITIONAL PLEDGES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
AT "THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE RULE OF LAW AT THE
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS", 24TH SEPTEMBER
2012**

1. INCREASING COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW

Nigeria is committed to the war against Terrorism and Terrorism Financing across the globe. Recognising the threat of terrorism on global peace and security and resolved to work in concert with other Member States to implement international initiatives and recommended practices to address the threat of terrorism, the Federal Republic of Nigeria pledges that by 2012:

- (a) to ratify the following United Nations Terrorism Instruments:
 - (i) **Convention Against the taking of Hostages, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 17th December, 1979, and**
 - (ii) **International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 15th December 1997.**
- (b) to amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011 to further criminalise in Nigeria, terrorism offences and incorporate recommended practices contained in the various UN Terrorism Instruments.
- (c) to adopt National Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will detail the framework, measures, and strategies to be adopted by Nigeria to effectively Combat Terrorism and the Financing of Terrorism and fully implementing provisions



of the United Nations, International and other Regional Terrorism Instruments. The proposed measures will include amongst others.

To further demonstrate its political commitment in combat terrorism the Federal Government will by 2013:

- (i) put in place measures to ensure accountability for terrorist offences;
- (ii) design the mode of seeking international cooperation and assistance to develop relevant national capacity;
- (iii) budget for high level training of our law enforcement agencies and the Nigerian judiciary at fighting the menace, and
- (iv) ensure effective coordination of anti-terrorism efforts by the National Focal Point on Terrorism.

2. FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Nigeria recognises the adverse effect of corruption on the economy and the attendant poverty and misery to citizens, which altogether have negative implications on public security and social justice. Realising that this menace further impoverishes the citizenry and militates against our developmental efforts by discouraging fair competition, direct foreign investment flows and encouraging capital flight including money laundering, Nigeria ratified the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and has substantially domesticated the UNCAC in her national legislations such as the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission Act 2000, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act 2004, the Code of Conduct Bureau Act and the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011. To further demonstrate its commitment and political will to fight corruption in all its ramifications, the Federal Government Pledges that by 2013:

- (a) Nigeria will put in place an inclusive, robust, National Anti-Corruption Strategy;

- (b) Nigeria will submit to Peer Review on Compliance with UNCAC;
- (c) Nigeria will step up its preventive strategy against corruption through a rigorous public procurement process, establishment of Anti-corruption Units in Ministries and Agencies, promoting whistle blowing through the FOI Act and involving Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in Anti-corruption programmes.

3. **LEGAL AID**

Recognizing that legal aid is an essential element of a functioning criminal justice system that is based on the rule of law, ensures fundamental fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process. Recognising also that, the first hours and days after arrest are crucial and impact on the subsequent steps of the criminal justice system, has made it a foundation for the enjoyment of other rights including the right to fair hearing. The Government has therefore introduced measures to ensure that; the Legal Aid Scheme takes into account the needs of specific groups in the society.

The Legal Aid Act 2011 has taken a radical approach in addressing the needs of teeming Nigerians by widening the scope of offences and matters covered by legal aid; introducing community legal aid service and an access to justice fund inter alia, to ensure effective and improved service delivery together with its dynamic new Governing Board, increased personnel and time tested structure. The Council is now better equipped to deliver on ensuring the right of women to access legal aid and establishing a child sensitive legal aid system. The Legal Aid Act of 2011 established a Legal Aid Fund and Access to Justice Fund, to finance public defender schemes amongst others. To enhance access to justice especially by disadvantaged groups, the Federal Government Pledges that by 2015:

- (a) the funding for legal aid will increase by 15% and the number of persons that will access legal aid will increase by 40%;

- (b) more lawyers will be recruited into the legal aid scheme and deliberate steps will be taken to ensure pro bono legal aid by senior legal practitioners.

4. PRISONS

Recognising the need to make our Prisons and other correctional facilities reformatory and determined to ensure that the dignity of the human person is maintained at all times and realising that some of our prisons are overcrowded and un conducive for proper rehabilitation. Government is determined to confront these problems in the short and medium terms through the reform of archaic legal framework, reduce Pre-trial congestion, and address Infrastructural decay and other logistical constraints. The Federal Government therefore Pledges that by 2015;

- (a) to upgrade the escort duty needs of the Prison by 70%;
- (b) to reduce the Awaiting Trial Persons (ATP) congestion by 20% by ensuring that the new Criminal Justice Administration Bill before the National Assembly and the new Prison Bill also before the National Assembly are passed into law;
- (c) reduce recidivism by 10% through reform programmes of the prison and in conjunction with aftercare and the National Open University of Nigeria

The Federal Government further realises the need to provide additional facilities for female inmates and juveniles, the Government therefore Pledges that;

- (a) by 2013 to expand the Juvenile Institutions from the present three to six in order to provide a national juvenile treatment infrastructure across the country;
- (b) by 2020, the Nigerian Prisons Service to build four more Female Prisons in the four geopolitical zones of the country to complement the ones already existing in Lagos and Ondo States;

- (c) by 2020 to build six new prisons that conform to International standards in each of the six geopolitical zones.

5. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The Federal Republic of Nigeria subscribes to the ideals of the International Criminal court and concerted global effort to end impunity. Recognising the need to have an international treaty based tribunal to adjudicate on the various international crimes that have been elaborated, Nigeria signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 1st of June 2000 and ratified it in 2001. Realising the need to enact an implementing legislation for Rome Statute, the Federal Government of Nigeria pledges that by 2013, it will enact an implementing statute to implement the provisions of the Rome Statute in Nigeria.



Joy U. Ogwu

Ambassador/Permanent Representative