Statement By Nigeria During The Panel Discussion On The Way Forward In The Realization Of The Right To Development: Between Policy And Practice

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Madam President,

We thank the Office of the Higher Commissioner for holding this panel event which, in our view, advances the discourse on the right to development. We also thank the panelists for their presentations.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development, my delegation reaffirms its support for the effective realization of this right.

We believe that all human rights are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and inter-related. The right to development is therefore as relevant and valid as other human rights. We are fully committed to attaining the MDGs and as a developing country, shall continue to do our part in support and realization of development that is focused on our people. It is in this regard that the Nigerian government has put in place a Transformation Agenda that is aimed at the attainment of rapid development to enhance the well being of Nigerians. Let me state, Madam President, that the entire apparatus of the Nigerian
government is currently geared toward the success of this Agenda.

Madam President,

Development, peace, security and human rights are interwoven. Sustainable development cannot be attained unless human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and promoted. Human rights cannot be guaranteed if development is not in place.

The achievement of MDGs and attainment of development require an enabling global and national environment. We recognize the fact that while international cooperation and solidarity is indispensable for the realization of development, States need to take steps, both individually and collectively to establish, promote and sustain national and international arrangements that would allowed such enabling environment for development to take root.

It is however, regrettable that the world economic order continues to put developing countries at a disadvantage, which in turn jeopardizes their chances of attaining the development necessary to improve the lives and livelihood of the vast majority of their citizens. There is therefore a need for the international community to do more to put in place, on a multilateral and bilateral basis, policies that would enhance the prospects of socio-economic progress for developing countries.
My delegation therefore calls for a constructive and objective dialogue between nations devoid of partiality and selectivity aimed at enhancing international economic cooperation; effective development of policies at the national level; creation of an enabling international economic environment, as well as sharing of best practices.

It would also be important to address the impact of international economic issues such as the debt burden, transfer of technology, market access, terms of trade etcetera, as we move together to uphold the ideals of the Declaration of the Right to Development.

I thank you.