

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security  
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. Laro Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations.*

I thank the delegation of Argentina for convening this open debate and for the excellent concept note (S/2014/731, annex) provided to guide our discussions. I also thank our briefers for their informative briefings. It is befitting that your delegation, Madam, should preside at a debate on the subject of women and peace and security, considering the fact that Argentina was a non-permanent member of the Security Council when landmark resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted, in October 2000.

The presidential statement we have just adopted (S/PRST/2014/21) underscores the determination of the Council to take forward the women and peace and security agenda, with a welcome focus on the situation of displaced women. It builds on the gains of resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1889 (2009) and reaffirms the leadership role of the Council in addressing issues pertaining to the welfare of women in situations of distress. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), women and girls comprise about half of any refugee, internally displaced or stateless population. UNHCR has also determined that in many societies women and girls face specific risks related to their gender and that those risks can be exacerbated in situations of displacement. The UNHCR further notes that displaced women and girls who are unaccompanied, pregnant, disabled or aged face particular challenges.

Responding effectively to the problems faced by refugee and displaced women requires a holistic approach that combines preventive strategies, responses and solutions. It is also essential that gender perspectives be integrated into policies across all sectors related to refugees and displaced persons in accordance with the relevant international law, including international refugee law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In order to be effective, such policies must address all four pillars of the women and peace and security agenda, namely, participation, conflict prevention, protection and relief and recovery. They must also ensure that refugee and displaced women are involved in all protection, prevention, participation and relief and recovery efforts.

In October 2009, the African Union adopted the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, also known as the Kampala Convention. That landmark instrument, which entered into force on 6 December 2012, marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative and legal frameworks for offering protection and assistance to displaced persons in Africa.

Nigeria embraces the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which stands as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons. Nigeria has ratified key international and regional instruments on refugee protection, including the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the Organization of African Unity's 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. We have passed into law the key international and African refugee conventions through an act of parliament establishing a national commission for refugees and providing a legal and administrative framework for refugee management in Nigeria. It also sets guidelines for determining the status of refugees in the country.

In line with its commitment to protecting and assisting displaced persons, our Federal Government has accelerated the process of adopting a national policy that will define a framework for its actions in that regard, part of its efforts to fulfil its obligations under the Kampala Convention. It also signifies our commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting the human rights of displaced persons in Nigeria.

Finally, Nigeria supports the global study on women and peace and security that the Secretary-General has commissioned. It should tell us what we have achieved in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and what remains to be done. We look forward to the high-level review in 2015, and we take this opportunity to re-state our commitment to the agenda for women and peace and security.