

**Security Council**

Seventy-third year

8234th meeting
Monday, 16 April 2018, 10 a.m.
New York*Provisional***Statement by the Representative of Nigeria, Mr. Iteboje:**

I thank the delegation of Peru for organizing today's open debate. Our appreciation also goes to Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed for her remarks and far-reaching recommendations. We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other briefers for sharing their perspective on this very important subject.

Nigeria condemns in the strongest terms the abduction, trafficking and maltreatment of women and girls by extremist groups, including the heinous activities of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region, particularly in north-eastern Nigeria. The use of women and girls as sex slaves must also be equally condemned. In that regard, it is our expectation that this debate will offer suggestions to address the prevailing challenges and gaps impeding our ability to acquire the needed resources to advance the role of women within the context of the global peace and security architecture.

We acknowledge that the Security Council has provided the leadership necessary to boost the women and peace and security agenda, beginning with resolution 1325 (2000), which set up the framework for subsequent Council resolutions. In Africa, the African Union has been a useful platform for the advancement of the women and peace and security agenda by emphasizing the engagement of women and youth in the continent's development. That has been clearly reflected in the Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

At the subregional level, in September 2010 the Economic Community of West African States, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa, developed an integrated plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The plan of action emphasizes the importance of the role of women in conflict prevention, resolution mediation and peacebuilding efforts, as well as the rebuilding of post-conflict societies.

Building on the subregional efforts, in August 2013 Nigeria launched a national action plan to fully implement the relevant provisions of resolution 1325 (2000). The plan reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring the security of women and girls during armed conflict and enhancing their active and direct participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. We are also collaborating with our neighbours, Chad, Cameroon, the Niger and Benin within the framework of the Multinational Joint Task Force to defeat the Boko Haram insurgency, which is targeting women and girls. Our experience in

the Lake Chad region is evidence that, with determined international collaboration, terrorism can be defeated.

In addition, the Government of Nigeria has taken steps to cater to victims of Boko Haram terrorism in its various forms — including rape and other sexual violence against children, the abduction of children and other grave violations — by putting in motion several legal remedies. Some legal and social remedies undertaken by the Government include the diligent prosecution of more than 200 detained Boko Haram terrorists in competent courts of law, as well as reintegration, reorientation and rehabilitation programmes and psychosocial programmes designed to meet the needs of each victim of sexual violence. The sustained efforts of Nigeria and its international partners have culminated in the liberation of territories previously occupied by Boko Haram.

It is to be noted that 80 per cent of the 2 million internally displaced persons in the north-east of Nigeria are women and girls. We have taken concrete steps to meet their humanitarian needs and to ensure that the necessary conditions are established to enable the voluntary return of the displaced persons to their places of origin in safety and dignity. Indeed, as a sequel to the aforementioned efforts, we welcome the release of the abducted Chibok and Dapchi girls. Our efforts will continue until the remaining ones are released.

I wish to conclude by acknowledging the contributions of civil society organizations as partners in the prevention, management and resolution of disputes. The Nigerian Government will continue to engage them as key stakeholders and partners in the women and peace and security agenda. Nigeria remains fully and firmly committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. In this regard, we will work assiduously to enhance the participation of women in peace and security initiatives.