

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT THE 30th SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE HOLDING IN VIENNA FROM 17 TO 21 MAY
2021**

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

1. Nigeria congratulates Mr. Chair and the Bureau for their deserved election, and expresses appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made for this session.
2. Nigeria is pleased to endorse the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Africa Group.

Mr. Chair

3. The theme of the session "*Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children*" is most appropriate, especially at a time when the international community is grappling with emerging trends and manifestations of this heinous cross border crime. We have an opportunity to discuss these emerging trends, including the impact of COVID-19, as well as global best practices in preventing and countering smuggling of migrants.
4. Nigeria has domesticated and operationalized the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols in our efforts to combat cross border crimes such as corruption, drug trafficking, cybercrime, money laundering, illicit financial flows, trafficking in person and terrorism. We are improving domestic conditions through comprehensive Strategic Action Plan, which guides our national responses. Nigeria is also taking cognizance of other relevant international instruments including the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in the fight against terrorism as well as the UN Global Action Plan adapted to our country's specific situation, challenges and priorities.

Mr. Chair

5. Nigeria underscores the importance of International Cooperation in facilitating Mutual Legal Assistance to prevent and combat transnational organized crimes and stresses the need to address legal and regulatory procedures that act as a barrier to effective international cooperation. We wish to highlight the primacy of timely asset recovery and return against the backdrop of dwindling development financing, made worse by the impact of COVID-19, especially in developing countries, and urge all states to demonstrate political will in removing all barriers to asset recovery including in cases that make use of settlements or non-trial resolutions. In this regard, we call for the implementation of the recommendations of the FACTI Panel in support of asset recovery and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development while preventing and combating illicit financial flows.

6. Furthermore, Nigeria condemns terrorism in all its manifestations, including banditry, kidnapping and hostage taking by terrorists to raise funds, and call on all states to strengthen cooperation through the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, in order to combat the threat posed by terrorism and to enhance timely information sharing, logistical support and capacity-building activities to affected states. There is also the need to prevent and combat the growing links between terrorism and corruption, illicit financial flows, cybercrime and drug trafficking.

7. In conclusion, Nigeria recognizes that strong institutions of criminal justice and well trained practitioners are necessary for the success of any crime prevention and criminal justice policy, and calls on the international community to invest more to strengthen the capacity of practitioners at all levels.

8. Thank you.