

**NIGERIA STATEMENT AT THE 32ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE (CCPCJ) AT VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
FROM 22 - 26 MAY 2023**

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

Nigeria congratulates Madam Chair and the Bureau members for their deserved election and expresses appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made for this session.

2. Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Africa Group.

Madam Chair,

3. 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, terrorism and more recently banditry. To this end, 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.

4. 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.

5. In order to address the protracted challenge of trafficking in firearms, Nigeria recently established a National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons as a measure to combat the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons in the African region and to forestall the spread of terrorism. The government has also enacted the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act

2022, Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022 and Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022 to provide sufficient punitive measures and strengthen the anti-Money laundering as well combating of financing of terrorism framework.

Madam Chair,

6. Nigeria wishes to reiterate its concerns and condemnation of terrorism in all its manifestations, including banditry, kidnapping and hostage taking by terrorists to raise funds. We therefore 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. Nigeria also recognizes that strong institutions of criminal justice and well-trained practitioners are necessary for the success of any crime prevention and criminal justice policy. It is therefore pertinent for the international community to invest more to strengthen the capacity of practitioners at all levels to improve crime prevention and criminal justice efforts.

Madam Chair,

8. Nigeria wish to recall the outcome of the Ninth Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nations against Corruption which took place in Egypt where its Resolution on “Enhancing the use of Beneficial Ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime” was adopted. As noted, the Resolution was inspired by revelation of the Panama and Pandora papers which revealed that over 6 billion dollars was lost to the activities of shell companies and politically exposed persons who exploit opaque and complex structures of legal persons and legal entities to corruptly enrich themselves and their cronies to the expense of the society.

9. We therefore call for continues implementation of the resolution and other instruments that will inspire more global action on beneficial ownership transparency by providing efficient access to adequate and accurate beneficial information in a timely

manner to domestic and foreign law enforcements authorities to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime.

10. In conclusion, Nigeria welcomes and support the preparations for the forthcoming 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the proposed theme: Accelerating Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Protecting People and Planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Digital Age." We look forward to a robust preparation and an outcome of the congress with a strong political message that will address the gaps in poverty, economic development, capacity building for practitioners, increased local and international collaboration in the fight against terrorism, cybercrime and corruption.

I thank you.