

# Development Dynamics, Nigeria

## Development Dynamics - UPR Submission - Nigeria - October 2013

### **1. Domestication of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**

- 1.1 Nigeria is a party to the ICESCR, but has not made the legal adaptation required to ensure that economic, social and cultural rights are considered as individual and enforceable rights, with the same status as all other human rights, and not mere State goals or aspirations. The recommendation to make the legal adaptation was accepted by the government of Nigeria at its last UPR in 2009. Up to the date of the submission of this statement, Nigeria has not made the adaptation.
- 1.2 Nigerians are still denied the right to enforce their individual economic, social and cultural rights.
- 1.3 Nigeria should consider, as a party to ICESCR, to make the legal adaptation required to ensuring that economic, social and cultural rights are considered as individual and enforceable rights, with the same status as all other human rights, and not mere State goals or aspirations.

### **2. Domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

- 2.1 Nigeria is a party to CEDAW, but has not made the legal adaptation required for the domestication of CEDAW. The recommendation to make the legal adaptation was accepted by the government of Nigeria at its last UPR in 2009.

2.2 Women in Nigeria are still discriminated against in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life in Nigeria and have no appropriate legislative framework including sanctions where appropriate to enforce their rights.

a. The government of Nigeria has not adopted any enforceable temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women in elective and appointive positions in the public service. There is just 6.5% women representation currently in the Nigeria parliament.

b. There is still no sanction regime that covers for the Nigeria Police and its personnel who deny women their rights to stand as surety to admit detained persons into bail in Nigeria. Hence the police have continued to deny women their rights to stand as surety to admit detained persons into bail.

c. Nigeria has customary laws enforced in parts of the country that deny women access to inheritance of family owned properties, which are reserved only for men.

2.3 Nigeria should consider the domestication of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

### **3. Establish effective mechanisms to prohibit violence against women and girls**

3.1 The incidence of violence against women and girls (VAWG) is on the rise in Nigeria. There is inadequate legislation to address the challenges of rising incidence of VAWG including victim support and protection. The recommendation to establish effective mechanisms to

prohibit violence against women and girls, including traditional practices, such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and to continue awareness-raising campaigns to eradicate such practices was accepted by the government of Nigeria at its last UPR in 2009.

- 3.2 Coordinated efforts by civil society stakeholders to advocate for the enactment of a comprehensive legislation to address VAWG in Nigeria that was started in the year 2002 have not received the desired response of the government of Nigeria. A proposed comprehensive legislation, the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Bill, is pending before the Nigeria Parliament. To effectively address the problem of VAWG, it is important that the VAPP Bill is enacted into law.
- 3.3 Nigeria should consider the establishment of effective mechanisms to prohibit violence against women and girls, and provide support for survivors and victims of violence.