STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

THE REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL,
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

THURSDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2014

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. President,

We thank the ICC President, Judge Sang-Hyun Song, for his report that is before us for consideration today. We also wish to seize this opportunity to express appreciation to the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, for her work in coordinating the affairs of the Assembly during her tenure of office, which expires by December 2014. In the same vein, we congratulate the President-elect, Mr. Sidiki Kaba, the Minister of Justice of Senegal and we look forward to his endorsement at the 13th Session of the Assembly in December, 2014.

2. We welcome the appreciable progress recorded by ICC in the fight against impunity and crimes against humanity. Nigeria commends the Tribunal for its trailblazing contributions in developing substantive and procedural International Criminal Law and the promotion of the rule of law. Through its works, the need to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity as well as war crimes, have been strengthened.

Mr. President,

3. The objective of the ICC is based on the concept that impunity must be challenged and that everybody should be held accountable for their actions. Therefore, the cooperation of States, international organizations and the civil society is vital for the Court to continue to discharge its role as enshrined in the Rome Statute. To this effect, we commend His Excellency, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of Kenya, who at great personal risk appeared in The Hague on 8th October, 2014 as a private citizen in response
to an invitation by the Court. This is the height of cooperation that anyone or any State can accord the Court and it also demonstrates commitment as well as respect for the rule of law.

4. We, however, wish to express our concern that the ICC did not dismiss the case against President Kenyatta despite having failed to establish a case against him. Therefore, we call on the Court to show more respect to African leaders and to engage with the African Union as well as African States on a mutual and respectful basis, as we all share the same values of promoting the rule of law and fighting impunity for the most serious crimes. It should be borne in mind that of the 122 countries that are States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC, there are 34 African States thereby making the African continent to have the highest number of membership. This significant number should not be alienated.

Mr. President,

5. As a signatory to the Rome Statute, Nigeria is faithfully committed to the ideals of the ICC. Our stance on human rights, the rule of law, peace and security, democracy and good governance and accountability are in-line with the principles that the ICC was established to promote. We have been demonstrating our abiding commitment to the promotion of these values in diverse ways. Nigeria is a member of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute of the ICC, which we ratified on 27th September 2001. We are committed to the ICC and to the fundamental values of the Statute; we endorse the guiding principles and objectives of the ICC; and we have
consistently underlined the structural importance of the ICC in the fight against impunity and in the quest for judicial accountability.

6. We believe that impunity must be addressed resolutely wherever it occurred in the world and domestically, we have instituted different instruments to address the menace. It is our belief that the aspiration for a global system that is based on the rule of law, where accountability and social justice are the foundations for durable peace, should be a source of inspiration to all. Indeed, this should be a priority for the international community, for world leaders and for the citizens alike.

I thank you