STATEMENT

BY

PROFESSOR BOLA AKINTERINWA,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAGOS

AT THE

PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON AGENDA ITEM 119:
"QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON
AND INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS"

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL,
WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 2014,
10:00 HRS.

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. President,

We recall that on your election on 11th of June this year, you remarked that the Intergovernmental Negotiation (IGN) on the reform of the Security Council has not made the desired progress and assured that you would work with Member States to make further progress on this important issue. Therefore, my delegation commends you for convening this meeting and for your determination to move the process forward during the 69th Session.

2. It should be recalled as well that during your Address at the commencement of the 69th Session on 16th September, 2014, you stated that one of your priorities for the session is the continued focus on the reform of the Security Council. You also stressed that the need to reform the Council was urgent as reflected in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Indeed, today's meeting and other steps you have taken along this line are practical demonstrations of your firm commitment to this process.

3. My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Ambassador Vandi Minah, the distinguished Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone who spoke on behalf of the African Group (on the common African position) and Ambassador Menissa Rambally, the distinguished Permanent Representative of St. Lucia who spoke on behalf of the L.69 Group.

4. We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Courtney Rattray, the Permanent Representative of Jamaica as the Chair for the 11th Round of the IGN and we wish to assure him of our cooperation. It is our sincere hope that this 11th Round would advance the discussions to new grounds and that it would not end the way previous rounds of negotiations ended.
Mr. President,

5. The Security Council Reform is inspired by the principles of the UN Charter. The clear objective of this process is based on the sovereign equality of all Member States and on the need to adhere to the principles of democratization and inclusiveness in the UN. Nevertheless, it is a paradox that our past efforts to move the process of negotiation on this subject to a text-based stage have been fraught by lack of consensus. This has made the annual rounds of negotiations to be mere academic exercise, which have resulted in no particular achievement.

6. It is now 10 years after the 2005 World Summit when world leaders collectively called for an early reform of the Council. Consequently, we should have a progress report, alongside a negotiation text, to submit for consideration by our leaders when they meet at the 2015 Summit, which also marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the UN.

7. Therefore, the outcome of the 11th round of negotiations should underscore our commitment to the reform of the Council as demanded by relevant resolutions and inclination of all Member States. As demonstrated at the past IGN, it is obvious that the overwhelming majority of delegations support expansion of the Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. What is required of us at this juncture is to move to the stage of real negotiations with the aid of a working document. For this reason, we want to highlight our expectation to ensure that during the 11th round of negotiations, we should move to the stage of text-based negotiations; otherwise there would be no marked departure from our experience in the past 10 rounds.
Mr. President,

8. Nigeria has continued to express her support for the advancement of the IGN process in an open, inclusive and transparent manner. Consistent with this, my delegation calls on all parties to be prepared to display openness and flexibility to make concessions that would enable us find a common ground and move this process forward in a progressive manner.

9. We wish to seize this opportunity to reaffirm African common position as enunciated in the Ezulwini Consensus to which we hold very strongly. We also wish to underscore the overriding need to ensure that the interest of Africa continues to be put forward and safeguarded during this new process. The African Group supports a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, particularly in the area of membership. In this connection, the Group is demanding for two seats in the permanent category and additional two seats in the non-permanent category. This is important in order to correct the historical injustice done to the continent and its marginalization over so many years. In addition, Africa advocates that the prerogative of the veto power be abolished; but if it must continue to exist, it should be extended to new permanent members as well.

Mr. President,

10. In conclusion, as we look forward to having fruitful deliberations and concrete result at the 11th round of negotiations, we shall continue to count on your leadership to steer the process successfully to a logical conclusion this time.

I thank you.