Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Chukwudi Okafor

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Head of Delegation

at the

Debate of the Second Committee
on Globalization and Interdependence

New York 23 October, 2013
Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his insightful reports on this agenda item. My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Fiji and Ethiopia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the African Group.

Mr. Chairman

Globalization is a powerful and dynamic tool for strengthening multilateral cooperation and accelerating growth and development. While globalization has created enormous opportunities and benefits in all spheres of life, there are challenges and risks manifested by imbalances in the distribution of benefits and costs, recurrent economic and financial crises, as well as environmental degradation and resource depletion.

Given its influence on humanity, Nigeria believes that the challenges of globalization should be addressed in the ongoing global discourse on the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, we are of the view that due cognizance should be given to the interlinkages between globalization, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Nigeria reiterates the central role of the United Nations as an inclusive forum on development and globalization. As a universal forum, the UN is in a unique position to strengthen international cooperation for promoting development in the context of globalization. We believe that the integration of developing countries into the global economy will enable them to take full advantage of their potentials for economic growth and
development. The United Nations is therefore urged to continue to foster and strengthen international cooperation as well as promote multilateral coordination, coherence, and implementation of the International Agreed Development Goals (IADGs), including the MDGs and post-2015 era.

Mr. Chairman,

Science, technology and innovation is one of the important pillars in the propagation of globalization. Nigeria urges the international community to address persistent obstacles to technology and innovation capacity in developing countries. Similarly, we stress that the challenge of mobilizing sufficient financial resources for technological advancement of the developing countries should be tackled in the post-2015 development agenda.

Nigeria urges the global community to support South-South collaboration for technology and innovation in order to promote the technological development of the developing countries. Furthermore, we urge countries of the south to encourage more foreign direct investment in technology oriented sectors.

Nigeria is deeply concerned that sufficient attention has not be paid to the interaction between gender and science, technology and innovation. More often, gender considerations are not generally included in the design and implementation of science, technology and innovation policies. Given the imperative We earnestly stress the need to include gender perspective in science, technology and innovation policymaking.
Nigeria reaffirms the need for the global community to promote pro-poor innovation that specifically targets the challenges faced by the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population. In this regard, we believe that building agricultural innovation capacity and raising agricultural productivity is crucial to the economic empowerment of the poorest and most vulnerable.

Mr. Chairman,

At this critical juncture in the global development agenda, the crucial role of culture in achieving sustainable development and wellbeing, cannot be underestimated. Globalization must therefore strive to strengthen common values, boost and maintain local development, taking into account the values, traditions, culture and identity of the people, who together make up the common heritage of humanity. It should pay attention to preserve diversity as a principal wealth of human development. It is trite to add that the rich cultural heritage and substantive labour force could serve as a veritable tool for economic prosperity of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

With increasing breakdown of trade barriers in developing countries as a result of globalization, industrialized nations have taken advantage of trade liberalization by seeking markets to dump cheap manufactured goods, thus rendering the local industries inefficient, resulting in slow growth rate, low capacity utilization and low output. Nigeria therefore reaffirms its support for the early conclusion of the Doha Rounds. We believe that genuine efforts should be geared towards addressing the impasse on the application of the principle of common-but differentiated rules-setting. We also believe that a universal, rules-based, open, non-
discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization would advance economic growth and development of developing countries.

Nigeria is making giant strides towards global economic integration through government privatization policy. There has been a relaxation of market and capital controls which pose a significant obstacle to Trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). More importantly, Nigeria is playing a pivotal role in the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) in its development effort which seeks to tackle the issues of underdevelopment, unemployment, poverty and corruption.

Nigeria identifies with the implementation of the Scientific and Technical Exchange Programme (STEP), which aims to create opportunities to engage the services of highly trained African researchers, and offers partnerships in the use of research facilities across African countries. In the field of science and technology, Nigeria has been a strong advocate of the need for exchange of expertise in the context of South-South Cooperation and sustainable development. The country has requested more support to operationalize the project of creation of the South-South Global Asset and Technologies Exchange (GATE), which facilitates the acquisition and exchange of technology among developing countries and provides a better mechanism to gain access to information, skills, technologies, financing and the mobilization of other resources for development projects.

Nigeria believes that the international community should provide further support to a fair and more equitable globalization for all, by assisting developing countries to increase their capacity to manage their
respective development process as well as to engage in building human capital and capacity through education, health and job training, not only in their export-oriented sectors but also to enhance inclusiveness and equity, in their non-tradable sectors.

I thank you