

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT
DELIVERED

AT THE
"TECHNICAL MEETING ON
MIGRANTS' CONTRIBUTION TO
THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS"

DATE: 24-25 JULY 2017

Mr Chair,

Nigeria welcomes this thematic session on migration especially its objective in mainstreaming migration into the national development. Nigeria has always recognize the important role of the Nigerians in Diaspora in national development and that is the reason why our government has put in place relevant policies that would not only recognize their importance in the frame of national development but ensure that their skills and potentials are properly harnessed to facilitate meaningful socio-economic transformation of our country. It is within this transformational advantage that we recognized Nigerians in Diaspora as key elements in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

2. We have long established the office of the Special Assistance to the President on Diaspora and appointed competent Nigerians to man the office and serve as veritable linkage between millions of Nigerians in the Diaspora and national development agenda. We have scaled this up by ensuring the proper organization of Nigerians abroad into Nigerians in Diaspora Organization, NIDO. This NIDO is currently operating in various countries where Nigerians are found. This is to facilitate critical interaction with not only our government back home but also governments of their various host countries. Efforts are on to strengthen and operationalize our Diaspora fund to ginger basic infrastructural development at home. We have also develop a national migration manual that rests on sensitization and spreading of awareness on the dangers of irregular migration.

3. Given the economic and social potentials of migrants, we call for a new compact that identifies these potentials and regards them as critical partners in development. We call for a compact that not only respect the rights and dignity of African migrants but one that recognized them as expatriates thereby affirming their economic and technical importance to the development of host countries. We also call for a compact that align itself significantly with regional initiatives on migration such as AU and ECOWAS as a way of taking advantage of the blend of national and regional development plan with global migration transformation.

4. We pledge our commitment to facilitating meaningful, progressive and beneficial compact that would take into proper account the benefits of migrants to the overall development of the countries of origin, transit and destination.

5. I thank you.