



STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO  
THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES WITH THE  
OVERARCHING THEME: "RETHINKING DISABILITY INCLUSION IN  
THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL JUNCTURE AND AHEAD OF THE  
SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE"

HELD FROM

11<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**At the outset,** I congratulate the Chair and members of the Bureau on their election to steer the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Mr. President,**

2. Persons with disabilities continue to be marginalized. They face disproportionate levels of discrimination and stigma and are prevented from full and effective participation in all aspects of public life. Being largely barred from participation in the decision-making process creates an obstacle to the enjoyment of rights related to education, employment, equality and many more. In this regard, the entrenched exclusion and disadvantage of this group has implications for national and global development.

3. It is imperative to note that lack of available and comparable data, disaggregated by disability, is a serious challenge. There are other disadvantaged groups which require further attention and research, for instance, deafblind persons, refugees, migrants, asylum-seekers, displaced persons with disability, persons with disability living in rural areas, persons with disability living in poverty, people on the autism spectrum, and intellectual disability. I urge Member States to strengthen their commitment to implementing CRPD, including other human rights instruments such as Universal Declaration of Human Rights and their optional protocols.

**Mr. President, Excellencies,**

4. The government of Nigeria has taken steps to prioritize promotion and protection of the inalienable human rights of persons with disability, now strengthened further by the passage of law on Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018. The Act prohibits all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities. Under its provisions, defaulters will face a fine, imprisonment or both depending on the gravity of discrimination.

5. The Act provides for the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities in education, health care, prioritization in accommodation and emergencies, access to public transportation facilities. The Act also reserves five per cent employment for persons with disabilities in all public organizations and gives persons with disabilities the right to file a lawsuit against any defaulter. The Act provides five years for all government buildings to have accessibility for persons with disabilities, and it also provides for the establishment of a Commission to oversee its implementation.

6. Despite these, persons with disabilities face numerous barriers including accessibility to physical environments and on the internet, social exclusion, the absence of assistive technology, and barriers in healthcare service and in the workplace.

**Mr. President,**

7. In conclusion, Mr. President, Nigeria is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities including women and girls and older

persons enjoy their full rights. Achieving the Sustainable development goals will be a mirage without free, full, meaningful, and equal participation of an all-societal activities on an equal basis. Nigeria stands ready to work with the United Nations and international partners in projecting and advancing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

I thank you.