

**STATEMENT OF NIGERIA ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
RAPPORTEUR ON RACISM**

Delivered by

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Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Mr. Doudou Diéne for his report to the Council as contained in document A/HRC/5/10. Like all his previous reports on this important subject, Mr. Diéne has once again brought to the fore the dangers of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia for political ends; the incursion of the racist political platforms of extreme right-wing parties and movements in the political agenda of democratic parties; and the disturbing intellectual legitimisation of those platforms.

Nigeria is aware of the negative consequences of racial discrimination in various political systems across the world; and thus welcomes the detailed region-by-region analysis of this disturbing phenomenon by the Special Rapporteur.

We particularly agree with Mr. Diéne that the multi-ethnic nature of most African states has often influenced the conduct of partisan politics along those lines. But here while noting the veracity of this claim we must stress that the phenomenon is of course not only restricted to African or

developing countries politics or way of life. It would appear to be a universal political conduct or behaviour, that cuts across political ethnic racial and class divides. Even at the risk of over stressing this point, it is worth noting that the electorate would tend to vote along lines that satisfy their individual needs and interests. In this context, while that paragraph 41 of Mr. Doudou Diene report states that political competition in Nigeria has often exacerbated regional, ethnic and religious conflicts, ~~My delegation would like to express regret~~ that it fails to recognise the bold, practical and largely successful measures taken over the years by Government, with the support of the Nigeriaⁿ ^{people} to address the issue. These measures include, the ~~notion~~ and concept of the Federal character principle enshrined in the constitution of Nigeria which is applicable in all facets of public and national life in the country. This principle has made it possible for example for the sharing of political offices in the country in an all-inclusive manner. This is also replicated in the civil service.

Mr. President,

Nigeria welcomes the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur which are aimed at achieving intercultural and inter-religious harmony at both the national and international level. We welcome the recommendation for the deepening of reciprocal knowledge between communities and increasing their interaction. We look forward to cooperating with Human Rights Council in the realisation of these objectives.

I thank you.