PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

828 SECOND AVENUE• NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • TEL. (212) 953-9130 • FAX (212) 697-1970

STATEMENT

BY

DR. TOPE ADE ELIAS-FATILE, PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

(Sixth Committee)

AT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

10 OCTOBER 2014

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,
My delegation wishes to commend the choice of theme for our deliberation
on this agenda item for the 69th Session: "Sharing States' national practices in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice." As rightly stated in the African Group's statement delivered by the distinguished representative of South Africa to which Nigeria aligns itself, this theme is consistent with the Declaration of the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (resolution A/RES/67/1) adopted by Heads of State on 24 September 2012.

2. The theme is all-encompassing and has wide ranging implications for the work of the UN since every aspect of human endeavour is intrinsically linked to or related to the rule of law. Issues pertaining to good governance, democratic . practice, accountability, fight against impunity, peacekeeping operations, protection of civilians in armed conflict, women and children, terrorism and transnational crimes, and a host of other subjects have intrinsic to them respect for and observance of the rule of law. Similarly, issues relating to the rule of law are intimately woven around Security Sector Reform (SSR) in post-conflict situations, aimed at

system have been seized with this cardinal subject over the years. This is evidenced by several resolutions and outcomes of High-Level Meetings including the Millennium Declaration, World Summit and the afore-mentioned 2012 Declaration, all of which contain essential elements of the rule of law at the national and international levels. These are part of international "rule of law architecture," which also include mechanisms such as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), International Criminal Court (ICC), the Human Rights Council (HRC), Human Rights treaty bodies, conventions and instruments on the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocity crimes, and so on.

4. All the instruments, norms and principles that govern the rule of law namely the provisions of the UN Charter, UN conventions and treaties, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), provisions of international human rights and humanitarian law, customary international law, national legislation and

o

a fundamental prerequisite for the establishment of justice and as a basis for peaceful coexistence and the prevention of armed conflict. Therefore, we envision the promotion of the rule of law at all levels as a vital means of strengthening cooperation, enduring peace and security among States.
Mr. Chairman,
6. We have consistently demonstrated our respect for the rule of law both at the national and international levels. As a country governed by a written Constitution {1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended), Nigeria remains committed to a process of governance that is firmly anchored on democratic principles. The Constitution provides the basis for a 'Rule of Law' approach to governance at the national level. Our law making process is people-oriented and particularly sensitive to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the society. We appreciate the connection between the rule of law and Democracy and the primacy of the rule of law as a prerequisite for the promotion and protection of democracy, good governance and sustainable development.
7. We have also demonstrated strong political will of

81 of the constitution which provides, inter alia, that the amount due to the Judiciary in the Consolidated Revenue Fund (as a first line charge) shall be paid directly to the National Judicial Council for

illustrates Nigeria's commitment to the rule of law at the international level; while our support for peacekeeping since our independence in 1960 are expressions of