

REMARKS

BY

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NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE
2020 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)
(SEGMENT ON PROTECTING AND ADVANCING HUMAN
WELLBEING AND ENDING POVERTY)**

ON

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Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Delegation agrees with previous speakers that upholding human rights, eradicating poverty in all its multiple forms and dimensions, closing opportunity gaps and expanding capabilities, including those needed to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, are some of the topmost priority goals of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

2. According to the Copenhagen Declaration of 1995, poverty manifests in the form of *lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihood, hunger and malnutrition, ill-health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increase morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environment, social discriminations and exclusion*. Evidences indicate that poverty is largely at the foundation of most social vices and crimes, such as terrorism, illegal migration, conflicts, intolerance, fraudulent practices, piracy, human trafficking, drug trafficking and abuse, and corrupt practices, both in high and low places.

3. Given its cross-cutting nature, no country can truly lay claim to achieving sustainable development, in its three dimensions, as long as poverty persists. It is against this background that my delegation wishes to stress that time is ripe for the international community to develop structures and strategies to address the global scourge of poverty. We commend the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, for his leadership in launching an Alliance for Poverty Eradication, on 30 June 2020.

4. With COVID-19 pandemic threatening to push millions of people back into poverty, we must explore the potentials of MSMEs; ICT; agriculture; tourism; quality and technical education; access to energy among others, to create jobs and empower the largest number of people in our various societies, including youths, women and girls.

5. Let me avail myself of this opportunity therefore, to invite all member states and critical stakeholders to support the efforts of the Alliance to spotlight the ills of poverty and deprivation and sustain advocacy for the achievement of the goals and targets of SDG 1, for all countries, peoples and segments of society.

6. I thank you!