

Madam Chairperson,

Nigeria fully supports the statements of the representatives of Senegal on behalf of the Aficom Group and Sudam for G-77 on rural development. I thank the Panelists on their compelling presentation and analysis.

Rural development is the key ~~and~~ foundation to the overall national growth ~~in~~ agriculture, environment, health, indeed the very basis of sustainable development. On the other hand Land is fundamental to rural development and thereby require clear policy options to achieve rural development.

The top priority in the policy options is the political will of government to initiate and implement policies on rural development. Focus must be on land reform to broaden access to land including women's rights and their inheritance to land, micro-credit both in micro lending and micro-earnings access to affordable and sustainable energy etc. This demands structural transformation in the use of ~~of~~ land address whose abnormality that excludes the overwhelming majority of the population - the rural poor and by extension the rural women that also constitute the majority. Linked with land reforms are the crucial equation of education, health services, <sup>infrastructures including water, roads, housing and water</sup> and international policies on poverty <sup>associated with employment</sup> creation. We must avert debilitating rural migration to urban areas etc.

The <sup>intergovernmental</sup> <sup>community</sup> <sup>responsibility</sup> to assist developing countries <sup>in</sup> <sup>implementation</sup> of development strategies. It is crucial that policies developed by the UNCED on sustainable land management Climate change adaptation strategies, the UN Secretary-General Task force on Food Crisis, <sup>etc</sup> should well guide policy development in the CSB. It is also fundamental that <sup>fourth</sup> <sup>replenishment</sup> sustainable land management of the Global Environment <sup>facilitate</sup> should be increased substantially to be sit par with other focal points such as climate change and biodiversity

