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NEWSLETTER



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Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UN Nigeria

“Dear UN Colleagues and Partners,

On 31 May 2018, Member States adopted Res/72/279 on the repositioning of the UNDS, in the context of the GA/Res/71/243. The Resolution called on the Secretary-General to design and implement a series of reform to ensure that the UN's development system becomes more field-focused, well-coordinated and accountable. A common theme runs through all elements of the reform— a rock-solid commitment to reinforce national leadership and ownership for sustainable development. Member States must be in the driver's seat and the 2030 Agenda will be the driving force.

January 2019 marks the beginning of the implementation of these reforms, making sweeping changes in three areas: development, management and peace and security. These changes will enhance the UN's contribution to sustainable development, ensure more effective capacities to tackle conflict and sustain peace, and improve the UN's internal management and ability to deliver on the SDGs.

The reforms will lead to the emergence of a new generation of UN country teams, centered on a strategic UN Development Assistance Framework and led by an impartial, independent and empowered resident coordinator - separated from the UNDP Resident Representative. Restructuring regional assets and ensuring regional optimization will be another key component.

In Nigeria, the reform will address the fragmentation and bureaucratization of the UN system, which causes gaps, duplication of work, and resource drainage. We will work towards a more accountable and effective UN system that delivers better on the ground through interventions that are based on needs and centers around Nigeria's context and development aspirations.

As we move forward in 2019, I won't mince words: while I recognize the progress we have made, we cannot be complacent...Continue on page 2.



UN Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Muhammed addresses the audience in Kaduna Nigeria

Against the backdrop of rising global challenges, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Muhammed, has emphasised that no country or region alone could tackle the global challenges of today. “In the regions today, no country is alone. Our borders don't make any difference in the Sahel when we talk about issues of terrorism, migration, and climate change. No country, no region can tackle the global challenges of today,” said Ms Muhammed at the opening of Kaduna State Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Acceleration Conference 2019, on Tuesday, 22 January 2019...continue on page 2



2019: International Year of Indigenous Languages

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...To meet the needs and expectations on the 2030 Agenda, we must accelerate our work through a fresh focus and vision. As we begin to walk the talk for the UN reforms, these are the five immediate priorities that I would like us to pursue:

Power ahead with a collective support to the SDGs

Despite considerable efforts by the UN, Government and many others, the transformative changes demanded by Agenda 2030 are not yet being made in Nigeria. We need a shared vision across the UN system; better joined up planning and programming; improved leadership for collective outcomes; and sharper focus on what works and we need to support the Government to leverage increased financing for these solutions.

Greater ambition to do things differently

The UN Secretary-General has made very clear in his reform proposals that business-as-usual is not an option. Our goal, therefore, is a UN system that is more focused on people, less on processes; more on results for the poor and marginalized, less on bureaucracy; more on integrated support across silos, less on competition. To achieve this bold vision of the SDGs, we must do things differently.

A new approach to Partnerships

We need to take partnerships to a new level and work through a system-wide approach. We must be determined to strengthen our capacity to engage with Government, civil society, the private sector, international financial institutions and others. We must also engage in North-south, South-south and Triangular Cooperation to leverage on experiences and capacities. There is enormous, unexplored potential in this area.

Accelerate peacebuilding and prevention initiatives

Advancing the SDGs in such a challenging environment as Nigeria requires joined up approaches across development, humanitarian and peace interventions – working in a more coordinated, comprehensive and mutually reinforcing manner. Reducing needs, risk and vulnerabilities and increasing resilience of the



affected population to cope with the impact of the crisis in the North-East is a key priority. We will also address the peace and human security gaps in the states affected by the herders and farmers conflict and engage in preventive diplomacy and support for peace, security and development in Niger Delta and southeast Nigeria.

Strengthen Coherence & Collaboration

UN reform is a great opportunity to show what the UN can offer – as a convener, an innovator, accelerator – in both humanitarian and development settings. System coherence and collaboration can serve as a powerful accelerator. It is also a way to bring our action to greater scale. Individually, we are medium-sized development entities. Together, we are an organization with unparalleled expertise, capacities and physical presence.

Colleagues and Partners, I am confident that we are heading in the right direction. The reform train has left the station and is moving firmly towards a system that is new and better. We will need your continued support and engagement, each and every UN staff and partners across sectors, to ensure we reach our final destination: a UN development system that is more cohesive, agile, impactful and accountable as it helps deliver the SDGs. “

No Country can Tackle Global Challenges Alone...Continued from page 1

...under the theme: "Building Effective Partnership For Accelerated Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

Despite a global decline in people living in poverty, the Deputy-Secretary-General observed that extreme poverty has remained high due to conflicts and attendant instability and hunger. However, she disclosed that in the world today there is enough to feed the world two to three times over but there are so many Inequalities in many places and millions go to bed hungry.

The Deputy-Secretary-General advocated for gender inclusion in SDGs implementation and results: "Part of our population, especially women and girls, should not only be at the centre of our policies, we also want to see them at the centre of our results." She explained further that "We need to see young people at the centre of the impact that is made on everyone's life. Because they are not the future tomorrow; they are the future today."

Also speaking at the conference attended by Nigeria's Minister of Finance, Hajiya Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed; Resident Coordinator of UN in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon; representative of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, H.E. Prince Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire among others, the Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, disclosed that the State made history as the first in Nigeria to present an in-



L – R: Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai; United Nations Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Muhammed and Nigeria's Minister of Finance, Ms Zainab Ahmed at the opening of Kaduna State Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Acceleration Conference 2019, on Tuesday 22 January.

depth analysis of its SDGs data and strategy for implementation at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in New York. Malam El-Rufai said his administration has made progress by adopting the SDGs targets and indicators, investing in data that allows "us to know where we are coming from and what we have achieved so far."

North-East Humanitarian Challenges: Let's recommit Ourselves – VP Osinbajo



Left: Vice President Yemi Osinbajo speaking at the on Tuesday 29 January, at the simultaneous launch of 2019-2021 Humanitarian Response Strategy and the Regional Refugee Response Plan in Abuja.

Right: The Vice President (2nd Left); UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon (2nd right) and others present copies of the Reports to the public.

Nigerian Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo has emphasised the need for an increased support to millions of Nigerians who are facing humanitarian challenges in the North-East. “Every day more lives are endangered in the north-east. Let us all seize the moment and recommit ourselves today to take action,” said the Vice President on Tuesday 29 January, at the simultaneous launch of 2019-2021 Humanitarian Response Strategy and the Regional Refugee Response Plan by the United Nations and partners, in support of the Governments of Nigeria and of countries hosting Nigerian refugees.

To continue providing food, water, shelter and protection to the most vulnerable people in Nigeria and neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger, the Humanitarian Response Strategy is seeking \$848 million while the Regional Refugee Response Plan seeks \$135 million.

The Humanitarian Response Strategy also articulates a collective vision for the next three years of humanitarian action and marks the first time in Nigeria that humanitarian actors are adopting a multi-year approach.

Millions of civilians continue to grapple with extreme adversity across northeast Nigeria and the rest of the Lake Chad region where a recent surge in violence has uprooted tens of thousands more people, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. Top UN officials, therefore, are calling for support to respond to a humanitarian crisis that is now in its tenth year.

“We must sustain the efforts made over the recent years to ensure that aid reaches those who need it most. The decade-long conflict has brought immense suffering upon children, women, men, their families and communities. We have saved millions of lives, and as we strive to provide immediate response to new and existing humanitarian needs, we must also focus on addressing the causes of such untold suffering,” said Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria.

Humanitarian organizations in Nigeria are targeting 6.2 million people hardest-hit by the crisis in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states in the country’s north-east. Although aid groups targeted almost the same number of people in 2018, this year’s budget is around \$250 million less than the previous year, based on the assessed needs and the realistic capacity to deliver aid. Last year,

donors provided 67 per cent of the funds, or \$700 million, enabling humanitarians to provide aid to more than 5.5 million people.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, seeks funding for the 228,500 Nigerian refugees who have fled into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger, and points to a disturbing trend of events. “Attacks are still happening, killing civilians and forcing thousands to flee for their lives. Young girls, old women and aid workers continue to bear the brunt of this escalating theatre of violence,” said Liz Ahua, Regional Refugee Coordinator for Nigerian refugees and UNHCR Regional Representative for West Africa.

The escalation in the conflict has thwarted the people’s intention of returning to their homes. “Some refugees that attempted to return to their homes and communities have become displaced multiple times in their own country or have retreated to Cameroon, Chad and Niger to continue in exile,” Mrs. Ahua added. As Nigerian refugees continue to arrive in very remote and impoverished communities in neighbouring countries, “it is time to broaden our response towards a longer term approach, to support those forced to flee and the communities hosting them, as they are already living below the poverty line and in dire need as their capacity to help those displaced is stretched to the limit.”

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is co-launching with UNHCR the Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan. “The continuing conflict in north-east Nigeria further increases the vulnerability of refugees, IDPs, families and host communities already facing deep development challenges,” warned UNDP’s Regional Coordinator, Nana Oumou Touré-Sy. “Together with humanitarian partners and governments, UNDP supports the comprehensive response to the refugee crisis by targeting weaknesses and vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities as a way to mitigate the risk of conflict between communities. This will ensure sustainability of humanitarian and development responses especially in longer term and protracted crises.”



FG, EU, UN Release First Large-Scale Nigeria Drug Use Survey



L-R: Chairman, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Colonel Muhammad Mustapha Abdallah (retired); Director, Division for Operations, UNODC., Ms. Miwa Kato; Minister of State for Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire; Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Nigeria and ECOWAS, His Excellency Mr. Richard Young; Chair of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Elimination of Drug Abuse, Brigadier General Buba Marwa (retired), and others.

The number of drug users in Nigeria is estimated at 14.4 per cent or 14.3 million people aged between 15 and 64 years according to the results of the National Drug Use Survey released on Tuesday, 29 January 2019 in Abuja. The findings of Nigeria's first ever large-scale nation-wide survey to examine the extent and patterns of drug use in the country shows that there is a gap in meeting the needs for treatment and care for people with drug use disorders. With close to 3 million Nigerians living with some level of drug dependence, the extremely limited availability of drug counselling and treatment services exacerbates this health crisis.

Based on data collected from 38,850 respondents in the household survey and 9,344 high risk drug users across all states of the country, the report provides for the first time, robust data on the prevalence of drug use in Nigeria at the national level and also by geopolitical zones and states.

"Some of the findings of the survey presented today are striking and alarming and call for concerted efforts to mitigate the

negative consequences of this rising menace on the health, socio-economic and security of our nation" said Dr. Osagie Ehanire, the Minister of State for Health in his remarks.

In her remarks, Director, Division for Operations, UNODC, Ms. Miwa Kato, noted the findings that "the number of past year drug users in Nigeria is considerably high by international standards at approximately 14.3 million people. This is an estimated 14.4 % of Nigeria's population in the age group of 15 to 64 years." That means that the prevalence of past year drug use in Nigeria is more than twice the global average of 5.6 per cent.

On the gender dimension of the findings, Ms Kato disclosed that one in four drug users in Nigeria is a woman, yet less than 5% of those in treatment are women.

On the way forward, the UNODC Director said: "Any response on drug use needs to be rooted in an understanding of the nature of the condition. Drug dependence is a chronic relapsing medical condition. The reasons why people use drugs are complex and are based on various social and health vulnerabilities - not on factors such as personal weakness or lack of morals. The extent of the problem is such that it cannot be addressed alone by any single entity within the government or indeed even by the government alone."

In his remarks, Mr. Richard Young, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Nigeria and ECOWAS, informed that the launch of the first large-scale drug use survey report would not be a one-off activity as the EU Delegation would continue to support the follow-up surveys to establish trends over a period.

The survey report was launched by Dr. Osagie Ehanire, Minister of State for Health with the support of Brigadier General Buba Marwa (retired), Chair of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Elimination of Drug Abuse; Chairman, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Colonel Muhammad Mustapha Abdallah (retired); Dr. Yemi Kale, Statistician General of the Federation; the Chairman, Senate Committee on Drugs and Narcotics, Senator Joshua Lidani; His Excellency Mr. Richard Young, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Nigeria and ECOWAS and Ms. Miwa Kato, Director, Division for Operations, UNODC.



Ms. Miwa Kato, Director, Division for Operations, UNODC. Addresses the audience at the launch of the Nigeria Drug Use Survey on Tuesday, 29 January 2019 in Abuja

Guterres Addresses Covenant Model UN, Emphasises SDGs as Blueprint for Prosperity and Healthy Planet



Dignitaries and CIMUN conference officials at the end of the opening plenary held on 16 January 2019 at Covenant University Ota, Ogun State.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has emphasised that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are the world’s blueprint for dignity, prosperity and a healthy planet. “Our world today enjoys remarkable opportunities to advance common progress. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are our blueprint for dignity, prosperity and a healthy planet,” said the Secretary-General in his message to the first Covenant International Model United Nations (CIMUN) conference, read by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for Nigeria, Mr Ronald Kayanja.

The conference which was organised by Covenant University Ota, in collaboration with UNIC Nigeria, was themed, “Restructuring the future through innovative ideas”, and attended by over 300 delegates from 8 countries and 12 institutions at the opening plenary held on 16 January 2019. Despite the remarkable opportunities, Guterres explained, “we the peoples” also face many complex challenges: “Armed conflicts have deepened. Global anxieties about nuclear weapons are the highest since the Cold War. Climate change is moving faster than we are.



UNIC Director, Mr Ronald Kayanja reads the message of the UN Secretary General to CIMUN conference held 15—20 January 2019.

Inequality and nationalism are on the rise, while trust and solidarity are on the decline.”

These problems and challenges, according to him, are increasingly global – and increasingly grave. “We need less hatred, more dialogue and deeper international cooperation. Multilateralism is more important than ever. Empowering the world’s young people is also an imperative.” He added.

Earlier in his opening remark, Mr Kayanja observed that “The achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires innovative ideas. Therefore, there is no other time to discuss the theme, “Restructuring the Future Through Innovative Ideas” than now,” He added that in Model United Nations (MUN) conferences, delegates are the Ambassadors of their assigned countries to the UN. “Let your presentations reflect the reality of the countries you are representing.” He urged the delegates.

The Vice Chancellor of Covenant University, Prof A.A.A. Atayero, in his keynote address presented by Prof Sheriff Folarin, noted that “It is only by innovative ideas that we can restructure, own and control the future.” He acknowledged that the United Nations has either redefined humanity or changed the world through sustained programmes, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, environmental development programmes and erstwhile Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as its current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and several other innovative programmes and initiatives.

Of particular interest, according to the Vice Chancellor, is the trickle-down idea of simulated UN System through Model United Nations (MUN) which brings the vision, philosophy, goals and workings of the UN to the micro levels, which should solidify the UN’s reach and consolidate its gains.

“Aside preparing the youths for leadership in the future, it also inculcates in them the enduring traditions, disposition and skills of conflict management, peace-building and a new world order in the context of peace and stability.” Prof Atayero added, “It is light of this that I commend and congratulate the United Nations and particularly appreciate the United Nations Information Centre in Nigeria for the cooperation, guidance and support.”

The Secretary General of CIMUN 2019 was Mr Andikara Honour Etubon while Dr Oluyemi Fayomi of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University Ota was the Faculty Advisor.

More Than 25,000 Babies born in Nigeria on New Year's Day— UN

An estimated 25,685 babies were born in Nigeria on New Year's Day, with Nigerian babies making up 6.5 percent of the estimated 395,072 babies born on New Year's Day globally.

Within Africa, Nigerian babies accounts for almost 40 percent of all those born in West and Central Africa, and more than 23 percent of those born in sub-Saharan Africa.

At current life expectancy rates, a child born in Nigeria is likely to live only to the year 2074 – 55 years of age. A child born in Denmark is likely to live until the 22nd century.

Only children born in three countries have a lower life expectancy than that of Nigerian children: Central African Republic, Chad and Sierra Leone.

"We can and must do more to ensure that children born in Nigeria survive their first day of life – and are able to survive and thrive for many months and years to come," said Pernille Ironside, UNICEF Nigeria's Acting Representative.

Globally in 2017, about 1 million babies died the day they were born, and 2.5 million in just their first month of life.

In Nigeria, each year, about 262,000 babies die at birth, the world's second highest national total, while every day in Nigeria, 257 babies die within their first month of life.

Among these children, most died from preventable causes such as premature birth, complications during delivery, and infections like sepsis and pneumonia, a violation of their basic right to survival.

"In Nigeria today, only one out of every three babies is delivered in a health centre, decreasing a newborn baby's chance of survival," said Pernille Ironside. "This is just one of the issues that need to be addressed in order to improve the chances of survival of those babies born today and every day."



Amina Shallangwa, a UNICEF-supported midwife, measures the head of a newborn baby at a health clinic supported by UNICEF in Muna Garage IDP camp, Maiduguri, Borno State. UNICEF Nigeria/2018/Naftalin

"Let's all make a resolution to fulfill every right of every child, starting with the right to survive," said Pernille Ironside. "We can save millions of babies if we invest in training and equipping local health workers so that every newborn is born into a safe pair of hands."

2019 also marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which UNICEF will be commemorating with worldwide events throughout the year. Under the Convention, governments committed to, among other things, taking measures to save every child by providing good quality health care.

UNICEF's Every Child Alive campaign calls for immediate investment to deliver affordable, quality health care solutions for every mother and newborn.

Virtual Reality in Classroom: Improving Learning Outcomes for Nigerian Children



Schoolchildren experience Virtual Reality at an event in Lagos hosted by UNICEF and Imisi 3D. UNICEF Nigeria/2019/Achirga

In December 2018, the UNICEF Innovation Fund announced its largest investment round yet - thirteen new startup companies using frontier technology solutions to create fairer opportunities for children.

Among these 13 is a female-founded start-up from Nigeria called Imisi 3D. According to the founder, Judith Okonkwo, Imisi 3D's solution will provide quality education tools through Virtual Reality (VR), which will enrich learning experiences for children.

"Our approach is broad-based, because we are looking to both engage people widely and get them to understand that the technology exists and what's possible, as well as the specific applications of these technologies - a major one for us is VR for educa-

tion. We are targeting children. We want them to be able to have more meaningful and experiential learning experiences."

With UNICEF's support, Imisi 3D will explore how to best develop innovative educational content based on curriculum needs and connectivity constraints of schools in Nigeria.

In January, a team from the UNICEF Innovation Fund in New York arrived in Lagos to work with Imisi 3D on a workplan that will turn their proposal into a reality.

The one-week visit included a visit to a local junior high school to speak with students and teachers to better understand their needs and challenges. It also included a VR meetup with young people at the NG Hub in Lagos. Students who had tried out VR by Imisi 3D gave their thoughts and opinions on the experience.

UNICEF's Nigeria Country Office was instrumental in helping Imisi 3D and UNICEF's Innovation Team develop a better understanding of the country context and education challenges in Nigeria, including the fact that more than 10.5 million children are out of school. Together, the teams explored the possibilities innovations like VR can bring to learning outcomes for children who can access it.

Challenges were recognized – most schools in Nigeria have limited resources, erratic power supply and congested classrooms. However, with careful planning and improvisation, the hope is to put VR in the hands of schoolchildren across the state and country soon.

"Imisi means 'inspiration' in Yoruba - and that is what's possible with these technologies, that you can inspire, that you can do it in multiple dimensions and all the possibilities that come with that," said Judith.

First Community Dialogue Manual on Migration & Human Trafficking in Nigeria Reviewed



Group discussion during the review meeting. Photo Credit: Ikechukwu Attah/IOM 2019

The first ever Community Dialogue Manual on migration and human trafficking in Nigeria was reviewed on 17-18 January 2019 by IOM, government and civil society representatives. The manual aims at helping community leaders, influencers and other key stakeholders in Nigeria hold discussions between community members on dangers and risks of irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling and at modifying peoples' behaviours and perceptions to seek safer migration alternatives.

IOM is currently implementing an awareness raising campaign on irregular migration and human trafficking in Nigeria centered on communities. "The communities understand and speak the sociocultural, economic and psychological language of its people hence they are in a better position to educate their youth about the dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking," said Lilian Nwanma Garuba, a representative from the Edo State Task Force against Human Trafficking.

The manual contains, among others, modules on key concepts related to trafficking in persons, how to identify similarities and differences between smuggling and human trafficking, push and pull factors of migration, stigma faced by returnees back home, and the role of their communities in the sustainability of their reintegration. It also encourages the community to act against irregular migration and human trafficking through concrete suggested action plans. The manual also presents case studies and interactive sessions to exemplify the lessons learned.

The community dialogues will be rolled out gradually in Edo and Delta States, in Southern Nigeria, with a pilot phase in partnership with local government agencies, youth groups and civil society partners.

Edo and Delta States are the major states of origin of Nigerian migrants, often victims of human trafficking, according to IOM data. The drivers include, among other things, an increasing unemployment rate in a primarily youthful population. For lack of alternatives, some Nigerian youths are coerced – through emotional abuse, juju curses (a spiritual tradition in Nigeria) and sometimes force – into leaving the country. When they return, they are often met with shame and rejection from their family members and peers.

"Modules covered in the manual will enable participants to have a better understanding of basic migration concepts as well as inform community members and stakeholders about irregular migration risks while promoting safe migration alternatives, social cohesion and behavioral change," said Alex Cole, IOM Nigeria Project Support Officer. "It is hoped that the manual will be adopted as a national document in Nigeria and the dialogues will be sustained in the communities."

The event gathered thirteen female and eight male participants from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), and the Edo State Task Force as well as CSOs.

The Community Dialogues are funded through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, and target 200 000 thousand potential migrants across 200 communities in Nigeria. The Joint Initiative is implemented by IOM to support the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of vulnerable Nigerian migrants stranded across the Mediterranean migration routes.

Cooperatives Well Placed to Create Viable Enterprise Model for Productivity and Income - UN

As part of activities under the Food Africa Project, the ILO organized a 2-week Training of Trainers Workshop using ILO's tools and methodologies on cooperative development with a view to harnessing the potential of cooperatives to promote decent work in Agricultural value chain in Jere, Kaduna State, Nigeria.



A group photograph of participants and facilitators at the 10-day Training of Trainers Workshop on cooperative development held 7–18 January 2019.

The Director of the ILO Country Office, Abuja, Mr. Dennis Zulu, has identified Cooperatives as capable of creating a viable economic model that generates productivity and income. He made the observation in Abuja while welcoming participants to a 10-day Training of Trainers Workshop on cooperative development. He stated that cooperatives were well placed to help tackle social inequalities, discrimination and exclusion based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and differential abilities. According to Mr. Zulu, “cooperatives have also proved to be effective vehicles for realizing decent work for all”.

Emphasizing the importance of cooperatives further, Mr. Zulu stated that women, youth and indigenous peoples have been able to increase their income and their standard of living by using the cooperative mode of working. He stated that people in agriculture can benefit from economies of scale to lower their costs of acquiring inputs, hiring services such as storage and transport, improving product and service quality and reducing risks. He urged the participants to endeavour to use the knowledge gained at the workshop to empower grassroots farmers.

In his goodwill message, the FAO Representative in Nigeria, Mr. Suffyan Sanusie Koroma congratulated the participants for the privilege of being invited to attend the training. He informed the participants that the Food Africa Project “Empowering Youth and Promoting Innovative Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) through More Efficient Agro-Food Value Chains in Nigeria” was a joint public-private partnership involving Agencies of the United Nations (UN SDG Fund, FAO, ILO, ITC), Sahara Foundation, Rocha Brothers and the Kaduna State Government.

Mr Koroma identified the key deliverables of the project to include strengthened food processing capacities and value addition close to production, improved agricultural yields, strengthened capacity of farmers-based groups and cooperatives, local economic development and sources of new livelihoods created and improved policy and inter-sectoral coordination. He informed the participants that the project was adopting a sustainable enterprise development approach in project implementation focused on cooperatives.

Speaking on behalf of Kaduna State Government, Mr Christopher Bitrus, thanked the implementing partners – FAO, ILO, International Trade Centre (ITC) and Sahara Foundation – for their commitments to the success of the project. He stated that Kaduna State Government has been working closely with the implementing partners since 2016 and was aware of the challenges facing Kaduna State in the area of agricultural value chain. He stated that the needs assessment conducted by the ILO revealed a lot of gaps in the area of cooperatives development and management and that the training was organized as a consequence of the assessment, to address the gaps identified. He enjoined the trainees to make the best use of the opportunity offered by the training with the aim of impacting agricultural value chain in Kaduna positively.

In her keynote address, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Mrs Ibukun Odusote acknowledged with thanks the ILO's contributions towards the development of cooperatives in Nigeria. She observed that agricultural sector “generates a growth rate that is at least twice effective in reducing poverty as compared to other sectors”. Harping on the importance of agriculture to Nigeria, she stated that agriculture contributed between 30 and 40% of Nigeria's GDP and engaged over 65% of the nation's total workforce. She regretted that despite the contribution of agriculture to the country's GDP, food production has not been able to keep pace with the growing population. She attributed this failure to inadequate viable, vibrant and sustainable cooperatives in Nigeria.

Acknowledging cooperatives as the solution that drives sustainable agriculture for increased productivity and food security, she reiterated the steadfast commitment of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to work with relevant stakeholders on cooperative matters to reap its benefits. Declaring the training opened, she urged the participants to make good use of the training opportunity.

The 2-week (07 – 18 January 2019) workshop was being conducted using the ILO capacity building tools: “My.Coop, Think. Coop and Start.Coop”.

Holocaust Remembrance in Abuja, Lagos: UN Urges youth to Shun Discrimination



Left: Students of Titsall Global Schools stage a drama on the Holocaust. Right: UNIC Lagos Knowledge Management Assistant of UNIC Lagos, Ms Bolanle Olumekor, curates the Poster Exhibition at Caleb College, Lagos during the Holocaust Remembrance

The UN information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria in collaboration with UNESCO Abuja; Abuja Schools Association; Titsall Global Schools Wuse 2 Abuja and Caleb International College Lagos, observed the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust with educational briefings of students, Poster Exhibition and Film Screening. "This year's theme, "Holocaust Remembrance: Demand and Defend Your Human Rights" encourages youth to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust, act against discrimination and defend democratic values in their communities," said UNIC National Information Officer, Dr Oluseyi Soremekun, on 28 January 2019, while addressing students from seven schools at the observance in Abuja.

He added that the Holocaust was a turning point in history, which prompted the world to say "never again". The significance

of the day, according to him, was the remembrance of past crimes with an eye towards preventing them in the future.

The UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, in her message read by a Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Office Abuja, Mr Hugue Ngandeu Ngatta, urged all players in the spheres of education, culture and science to redouble their efforts to combat ideologies of hatred and contribute to a culture of peace.

The students watched the film, 'Who Will Write Our History' and inspected poster exhibits on the Children of the Holocaust. Students of Titsall Global Schools staged a dramatic performance on the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

Speaking to over 800 students of Caleb, the Knowledge Management Assistant of UNIC Lagos, Ms Bolanle Olumekor, stated that the Day was a day to learn, share and educate.

New IFAD-funded Project to Raise Incomes of Smallholder Farmers in Niger Delta

Over 25,500 youth and women in Niger Delta region of Nigeria will benefit from the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) assisted Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) Project that aims to sustainably increase rural livelihoods by supporting efficient agribusiness investments.

Financing for the project includes a \$60 million loan from IFAD. It will be co-financed by direct investment from Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to the tune of \$30 million making it a total of \$90 million agricultural investment for the Niger Delta States of Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Edo, Delta, Imo, Rivers and Ondo.

Speaking at a stakeholders' meeting on the LIFE-ND project held on January 17, 2019 in Abuja, the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr Heineken Lokpobiri said LIFE-ND directly supports Nigeria's Agricultural Policy and the Strategic Framework for Youth Employment and Job Creation.

"This Strategic Framework addresses the large and growing number of restless unemployed youth, especially in rural areas. We will expect IFAD to continue to scale up the investments and subsequent impacts under LIFE-ND, primarily at the farmer household level but also at the wider community, regional and national level," said Dr Lokpobiri.

IFAD Country Representative for Nigeria, Ms Nadine Gbossa said LIFE-ND aims to support inclusive rural transformation through agricultural investments on priority agricultural commodities in the region such as cassava, plantain and rice, with fish, cocoa, oil palm and poultry adding it will contribute to the



IFAD Country Representative for Nigeria, Ms Nadine Gbossa presents LIFE-ND project design report to the Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr Heineken Lokpobiri (middle) and the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Mr Usani Nguru Usani at a stakeholders meeting held recently in Abuja.

improvement of livelihoods and to the food and nutrition security of rural households in the region.

She stated that The LIFE-ND project will develop the supply of skilled youth labour using the incubator model piloted by the now concluded Community Based Natural Resources Management Project (CBNRMP), the precursor to LIFE-ND project where successful rural agribusinesses were facilitated to mentor neighboring youth to produce greater volumes, leading to higher value enterprises and community incomes, and jobs for the youth.

PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right and top to bottom:

1. Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Muhammed engages with the UN Country Team (UNCT) at the UN House Abuja, on 1 February 2019.
2. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UN Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon (Left) welcomes the Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Muhammed to the UN House
3. Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Muhammed addresses UNICEF Staff during her visit to UNICEF Nigeria Office on 1 February 2019, while UNICEF Nigeria Representative, Mohamed Fall (2nd right) and staff members look on.



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