UN Human Rights Council, 56th session (18 June — 12 July 2024)

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Statement on Nigeria

Speaker: Jane Ebiere Siesi (via video)

WILPF Nigeria appreciates Nigeria’s support for many of the UPR recommendations received, and strongly urges the authorities to swiftly and decisively turn these commitments into action.

Among other recommendations, WILPF Nigeria welcomes Nigeria’s support for recommendation 152.10 to “translate the commitment made through the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty into concrete actions.”

In this regard, we urge the Nigerian President to prioritize assenting the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill of 2023 into law, establishing structures for the implementation and monitoring of the law to enable the National Center for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons to carry out its core mandates on effective monitoring and reporting of import, export and transit of arms.

We also draw attention to WILPF Nigeria’s recommendations on the “Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons” made in the UPR submission of July 2023. These include ensuring the implementation of provisions around gender-based violence and armed conflict, such as Article 7(4) of the Arms Trade Treaty. We also see it as necessary to build programs to address the connections between Small Arms and Light Weapons, violence, and harmful masculinities.

WILPF Nigeria also commends Nigeria’s support for recommendations about the adoption of the five gender bills that are still pending, including UPR recommendation 152.24 to “Ensure the passage of the five gender bills in the tenth National Assembly to increase women’s participation in politics in line with the Nigerian Government’s National Gender Policy (2006).”

We call for the legislative process for these bills to be expedited and ensuring their passage without further delay. We also recommend the following measures to be considered in achieving this:

1. Prioritizing the passage of these bills and allocating necessary support and resources.
2. Increasing budgetary allocations to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to support advocacies, and capacity building on the bills.
3. Increasing collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Civil Society Organizations on advocacy efforts in the passage of the gender bills into law.

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1 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Nigeria (UN Index A/HRC/56/7, 26 March 2024), Recommendation 152.10 “Translate the commitment made through the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty into concrete actions (Eswatini).”

2 Ibid., Recommendation 152.24 “Ensure the passage of the five gender bills in the tenth National Assembly to increase women’s participation in politics in line with the Nigerian Government’s National Gender Policy (2006) (Germany).”