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**Mission Permanente De la République de Djibouti
Auprès de L'office des Nations Unies
Et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève**

المبعوثية الدائمة لجمهورية جيبوتي
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى
سويسرا - جنيف

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STATEMENT OF MR DJAMA MAHAMOUD ALI
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI
AT THE OCCASION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
OF NIGERIA

*FORTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW*

GENEVE

09 FEBRUARY 2009

Mission permanente de la République de Djibouti
19, Ch. Louis-Dunant - 1202 Genève
T : + 41 (0) 22 749 10 90
F : + 41 (0) 22 749 10 91

Mister President,

Let me begin by extending on behalf of my delegation a warm welcome to H.E Ojo Maduekwe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, and to all members of Nigerian delegation. The presence of such a high level delegation today in this session is a clear indication of the willingness and determination of the Nigerian government to promote and protect human rights.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to convey to you the greetings of H.E Mohamed Barkhat Abdillahi, Minister for Justice of the Republic of Djibouti, who was here last week for the same purpose but could not get the opportunity to be among us today.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria has peacefully transformed from military regimes to democratically elected government. The fact that the people in Nigeria are given the opportunity to exercise their right to elect democratically their leaders is a major step towards creating an environment that respects human rights and promotes the rule of law.

We are delighted to note that the preparation of this report before us, for consideration, enjoyed the participation of all stakeholders in the field of human rights in Nigeria. In this connection we would like to congratulate the government of Nigeria for accommodating the views of each and every individual, group or institution participated in the production of this report.

Mr. Chairman,

Human resource is the backbone and the engine that drives the development of a nation and promotes human rights in all aspects. We applaud that development of human capital is among the seven point agenda that the government of Nigeria set for itself.

We welcome in particular steps taken towards the protection of the rights of persons living with HIV AIDS, the protection of children against all forms of exploitation, the national policy on education and the passing in 2007 an act establishing national centre for elderly person. All of these elements contribute in the development and protection of human rights in a way or another. Could you elaborate on the progress made on the ground with regard to the implementation of these elements and the challenges encountered?

My delegation appreciates Nigeria's achievement in the field of human rights and encourages the government of Nigeria to continue on this path.

Thank you Mister President.