



# Nigeria's Statement

Nigeria became a pathfinding country in February of 2017. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit series, the Federal Government of Nigeria has made commitments to end violence against children and issued the *Leaders Statement*.

Key highlights from the Leaders statement are as follows:

1. Allocation of 10 per cent of the country's annual budget to child protection and social protection systems and programmes.
2. Enforcement of a ban on corporal punishment in both the federal and states school systems.
3. Development of appropriate laws and policies relating to cybersecurity, safety and data protection relating to children.





## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA'S STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

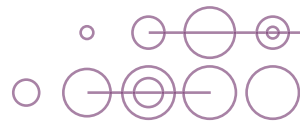
Our children represent our future, and the way we treat them, the investments we make today, will determine who and what they will become tomorrow. Our commitment to ending violence against children can be seen from the various government policies we have put in place to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children. The Survey on Violence Against Children commissioned by the National Population Commission in 2014 gave us, for the first time, the data to fully understand the magnitude of the problem. The adoption of a National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children 2013 – 2020 and the Declaration of a year of Action to End Violence Against Children in 2015, and the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Violence Against Children (VAC) bear eloquent testimony to our pledge to end violence against children in Nigeria. In 2017, Nigeria became a pathfinding country within the Global Partnership to end violence against children.

We welcome the publication of the 2020 Global status report on preventing violence against children. We are happy to observe that Nigeria's performance in promoting positive norms and values has increased significantly in recent times, including the provision of preventive and responsive support services to survivors. We acknowledge the need to improve the implementation and enforcement of laws, promote safe environments for girls and boys, strengthen parental and caregiver support.

#### **Restatement of commitment to Ending Violence Against Children in Nigeria**

Recalling our commitment to protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and violence under Goal 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, we remain fully committed to collective action at all levels to end all forms of violence against children. We therefore use the opportunity presented by the National Policy Dialogue to restate our continued commitments:

1. The Federal Government will support efforts of the ten remaining northern states that are yet to domesticate the Child Rights Act of 2003. Where laws have been passed, these states will be supported to develop and roll out implementation plans and ensure that the laws are enforced, and perpetrators held accountable for acts of violence committed against children.



2. **Budgetary allocation and release of funds are critical to the avowed commitment to ending VAC. The government will ensure that the Ministry of Budget and National Planning allocates 10per cent of the country's annual budget to relevant agencies in a bid to strengthen child protection and social protection systems and programmes.**
3. **The government will redouble efforts towards achieving universal birth registration in order to improve the lives of our country's most vulnerable children who remain invisible and without legal identity. We will continue to work with relevant agencies to plan and implement a digital universal birth registration system. .**
4. **The government will implement the recommendations of its recent convening on financing Safe Schools in Nigeria. We will work to enforce a ban on corporal punishment in both the federal and state schools systems. This ban will be extended to all other settings to reduce the use of violent discipline on children.**
5. **Recognising the need to keep children safe in the digital classrooms and the need to ensure that every child is free from sexual exploitation and abuse, the government will demonstrate leadership and commitment by developing appropriate laws and policies relating to cybersecurity, safety and data protection with a view to putting in place a robust Child Online Protection System that involves regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies, development partners, telecommunication companies and internet service providers. This is particularly important with the increase in online learning by students occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemic.**
6. **We will invest in support services to protect and support children affected by violence: not only will children be able to report incidents of violence, but when they report, the services will be available to them. We will encourage more states to establish Sexual Assault Referral Centres and One-Stop Centres to ensure that victims receive all appropriate services. This will be followed by the setting up national and state Child Helpline services to ensure that referral services are available to children who need them.**
7. **We will scale up household economic strengthening policies and programmes that improve the well-being and protection of our children and caregivers.**

**The Federal government acknowledges the support of our development partners towards ending violence against children and uses this opportunity to solicit your continued technical and material support towards the realization of this noble objective.**

**I thank you for your kind attention.**

