



# Economic and Social Council

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## High-level segment

### **Statement submitted by Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation, a non governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

That Nigeria's economy is ailing is an understatement. The swelling number of unemployed youths in the country is a menace that must be tackled without delay. The mass unemployed youths must be engaged meaningfully in the economic activities. The harsh impact of the situation requires providing some social safety nets, improved health care otherwise there will be more internal conflicts and crimes. The economic non-inclusiveness creates massive unemployment, tribal conflicts and discriminations. The more the youths are unemployed, the more the attractions for leaving the country for greener pastures, making them easy prey to Human Trafficking.

Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation is one of the most established anti human trafficking non governmental organizations in Africa known to have carried out the most powerful advocacy campaign to strengthen the fight against Trafficking in Persons and Child Labor in Nigeria. It sponsored a private bill which was signed into law that created the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). It mobilized Organizations in Nigeria to establish Network of Civil Society organizations against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL). WOTCLEF was established in 1999 to offer holistic support to victims from rehabilitation reintegration, provide them with seed money to establish their businesses.

WOTCLEF bill included punishment of the traffickers and restitution to victims. It also created the Public Enlightenment Department for awareness raising in the country.

### Combating Climate Change in Nigeria:

As Nigeria battles through its economic downturn, the impact of climate change in Nigeria has increased the scourge on Human Trafficking. How? Bordered in the North by the Sahara Desert which has been moving downwards into the Northern part, farming has been badly hampered making the children of the peasant farmers vulnerable to traffickers. The herders have been forced to move down south for green pastures for their cattle. This has led to the destruction of farmlands and the farmers/herders conflicts. These clashes have led to the killing of thousands of people as well as rendering many homeless. Those who survive the various invasions by herdsmen are kept in Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps. Many displaced persons migrate and invariably fall victim of trafficking in persons.

The economic situation of the country is compounded by the fact that industries are not being built, youths are restive and hungry for adventure into imaginary foreign safe haven. Very few make it to their destination, majority die along the way.

### Strengthening the Global partnership for sustainable development:

WOTCLEF is greatly concerned and the world must understand the reason for numerous inter-tribal conflicts in Africa and the role climate change is bringing to bear on poor underdeveloped countries. There cannot be any meaningful partnership for sustainable development without finding solution to the devastating effects of climate change. WOTCLEF looks forward to partnering with ECOSOC, other relevant NGOs to sensitize the whole world about the enormity of these problems, as it is guided to finding effective solutions to them in Nigeria.