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**POLIO ERADICATION IN AFRICA:**  
**“OUR HISTORIC LEGACY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS”**  
*(Item proposed by the Federal Republic of Nigeria)*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Nigeria has achieved good progress in the fight against the Polio virus by ending the year 2014 with 6 cases from 5 LGAs in 2 states compared to 53 cases from 30 LGAs in 9 states in 2013. This is an 89% reduction in number of cases nationally. Also, there has been no confirmed Wild Polio Virus Type3 (WPV3) in the past 27 months with the last reported case being in November 2012. More importantly, there is only one WPV Type 1 (WPV1) genetic cluster circulating in Nigeria which reflects an 87.5 percent fall from the eight clusters that were crippling children below the age of five in 2013. The country has gone 8 months without a WPV1 case as the last case was detected on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2014 from Sumaila LGA of Kano state. This has placed Nigeria on a global pedestal as the country closest to achieving interruption of the spread of the Wild Polio Virus among the three endemic countries of Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

2. As Nigeria draws nearer to one year without a polio case, the EOC comprising Government and Partners have been encouraged to remain active in the resolution of pending recalcitrant issues, implementation of all planned strategies, to adapt any new strategies that may provide better results and to continue to uphold accountability. Being aware of the need to not relent in our efforts, the Government and partners need to come together, interact and come up with sustainability measures for the PEI.

3. The African Union Heads of Government meeting will be held at the period during which Nigeria would be approaching one year of interruption of the spread of the Wild Polio Virus and amidst celebrations on this accomplishment, there will be a need to share with our African Heads of Government this important milestone and also show them how this progress in the fight against Poliomyelitis will be sustained and the level of implementation of the global vaccine action plan. It will be an opportunity to update the global community on progress made in PEI in Nigeria and also to share lessons learnt. It will also avail us opportunity to share opportunities and improvements in the introduction of new vaccines: Penta, PCV and IPV into the vaccination system in Nigeria and also share future plans and funding to execute the introduction of HPV, Men.A and Rota Vaccines into Routine Immunization in Nigeria in 2016.

4. 'Nigeria is well positioned to interrupt the transmission of WPV'. In order to sustain the determination of the Federal government and Partners to achieve interruption, Nigeria have strengthened the Nigerian Polio Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to sustain the high quality of polio campaigns, adopt and maintain special approaches to reach children in security-compromised areas, conduct timely and adequate outbreak responses, strengthen surveillance and expand household and community engagement approaches to increase demand for Polio and Routine Immunization services. This meeting will present with opportunity to reiterate and share these successes with the African Heads of Government and solicit their support and solidarity with this public health effort.

2015

# Polio eradication in Africa: “our historic legacy to future generations” (Item proposed by the Federal Republic of Nigeria)

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