**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE RIGHT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH**

The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development has the mandate and charged with the responsibility of caring for the neglected and less privileged members of the society with particular emphasis on the rehabilitation of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). In addition, the Ministry plans programmes, policies and actions in line with accepted United Nations Convention on the welfare and Development of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) to ensure the realization of the right to health of persons with disabilities, according to Article 25 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The challenges have always been inadequate funding of the programmes of the Ministry;

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development successfully carried out a Baseline Survey on Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria. The established data from the survey will aid proper planning and implementation of policies for the care, development and mainstreaming of PWDs in the country so as to enable them participate in the political, economic and social development of the Nigerian nation. The report of the survey can be found on the website of the Ministry [www.fmwasd.gov.ng](http://www.fmwasd.gov.ng)

* Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development collaborated with the IPAS to recruit sign language interpreters who were later posted to hospitals within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to bridge the communication gap between Hearing Impaired Women and Hospital Staff and ensure the rights of Hearing Impaired Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Country are protected;
* The Nigerian Disability Bill, which is currently receiving legislative attention at the National Assembly, will holistically take care of the issue of access to free or affordable general healthcare services and programmes including mental health services, services related to HIV/AIDS and universal health coverage when it is finally passed by the Two Houses and assented to by Mr. President.
* The Nigerian Disability Bill will cater for affordable disability-specific healthcare services and programmes;
* The Bill will also take care of the access to free or affordable health-related habilitation and rehabilitation goods and services, including early identification and intervention;

3. The Nigerian Disability Bill, in its Part 1 under “Prohibition Of Discrimination and Harmful Treatment” states that a person with disability shall not be discriminated against on the ground of his/her disability by any person or institution in any manner or circumstance whatsoever. Whoever contravenes subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction;

4. Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and in collaboration with Disability-Focused Non Governmental Organizations organize workshops and sensitization programmes to enable the general public know about the right to free and informed consent of persons with disabilities regarding healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health and mental health services;

5. The Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development engages the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWDs) which is the umbrella body of all associations of persons with disabilities in Nigeria in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of health policies, programmes and services.