

INTRODUCTION/OPENING REMARK¹

I am honoured to be a part of this meeting even if not there in person and would like to pledge my commitment in any capacity you may deem me fit to serve.

2. As you all know, my presence here in Italy is to foster cooperation between Nigeria and Italy with a view to combating the crime of Human Smuggling/Trafficking.

3. A point worthy of note here is the readiness of Nigeria to cooperate in any way possible in the combat against the menace of Human Smuggling/Trafficking. I have the total backing of the Nigerian government to participate fully in fostering not only legal cooperation but any form of cooperation required in tackling this menace.

THE NEW FRONTIERS OF IMMIGRATION

❖ *As stated in my opening remark, the Nigerian government is fully ready to cooperate in the fight against human smuggling/trafficking, this may come as a surprise to you especially with respect to Nigeria, this is because other past governments were not so much aware of the enormity of this problem until most recently. In the not too distant past, Nigerians sent videos of gory treatment meted at them in Libya which generated serious public outcry that got to the ears of the presidency hence the president's summons to all governmental agencies responsible for the fight against human smuggling/trafficking, mandating them to ensure the expeditious*

¹ Il presente contributo è redatto da **Hajara H. Yusuf**, magistrato nigeriano distaccato presso gli uffici delle Procure Distrettuali di Catania e Palermo nel corso del 2018, in forza di un accordo di collaborazione siglato sotto l'egida dell'Ufficio ONU (UNODC) di Vienna, al fine di agevolare i rapporti di cooperazione giudiziaria con la Nigeria e altri Paesi dell'Africa Centrale.

return of all Nigerian youth languishing in Libya and future action on this menace.

- ❖ *Migration from place to place is a common phenomenon known to man from time immemorial, however, where it is done with the intent to deprive other humans of their basic human rights and where such movements constitute a nuisance to the host community/country, then it is to be checkmated, especially as is seen in recent times where such movements have culminated into a fora for organized International crime such as as piracy, smuggling/trafficking in persons/ in drugs and illegal substances, illegal fishing and oil theft alongside ecological risks.*
- ❖ *In furtherance of its commitment to this course, two cases from Italy are being handled by the National Agency For the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons as two of the recruiters of the Nigerian youth are currently standing trial at a state high court in a South Southern State of Nigeria while the other recruiter is currently being tracked from available information given by Italy and may also face prosecution.*
- ❖ *This strategy will then circulate among the West African States where the majority of the migrants/trafficked youth emanate from.*
- ❖ *Thank you all*

*Hajara H Yusuf
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