

Statement at 56th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**Item: UPR Outcome Nigeria****Speaker: Zulu Anyaogu**

Mr President,

Our organisations welcome the several recommendations made to the Nigerian Government, especially those for protecting freedoms of peaceful assembly, expression and opinion, and ensuring a safe and enabling environment for Human Rights defenders, journalists and civil society. These recommendations call on the Nigerian Government to expedite the process of reviewing legislation undermining the enjoyment of these rights as well as amending the Nigerian Press Council Act of 1992 restricting the freedom of expression of journalists.

However, we remain concerned that HRDs especially journalists still face arbitrary detention and the use of Law Enforcement Agencies/Officers to arrest and intimidate them. In the last 6 months, Closing Spaces.org has recorded over 10 cases of violations of freedom of expression and press freedom.

We therefore call on the Nigerian Government to:

- Develop and enact a specific legal framework to recognise and protect the right to defend Human Rights giving full effect to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the Declaration +25 at the National level
- Ensure that human rights violations by law enforcement agencies are prevented through adequate training, and ensure accountability for violations that have occurred and guarantee the right to remedy for victims

I thank you.