Madam Chairman,

Nigeria fully supports the statement of the representatives of Senegal on behalf of the African Group and Sudan for G-77 on rural development. I turn to the theme of their position paper on facts and analysis.

Rural development is the key and foundation to the overall material growth of agriculture, environment, health, indeed the very bases of sustainable development. On the other hand, land is fundamental to rural development and therefore requires clear policy options to achieve rural development.

The top priority in the policy options is the political will of government to initiate and implement policies on rural development. Focus must be on land reform to broaden access to land, including women's rights and their inheritance to land, micro-credit, in micro-lending and micro-enterprises, access to affordable and sustainable energy, etc. This demands structural transformation and reform. Women's participation is in the use of land affects majority of the population - the rural women affordable housing, education, health services, roads, water, and sanitation.

The interrelated community has responsibility to assist development in the implementation of development strategies. It is crucial that countries on rural development strategies by the UN Secretary-General Climate change adaptation strategies, the UN Secretary-General's Task Force on Food Crisis, and the G-77 should be well aligned with strategies for the sustainable development goals.

In the case of land management of the Global Environment Facility should be increased substantially to be at par with other focal points such as climate change and biodiversity.