

*Address of the Nigerian Coalition for the ICC to the 44th Session of the
Committee on Budget and Finance of the ASP-ICC, 16 April 2024*

As a country group, working to fight impunity in Nigeria, and also in the West Africa region, we are concerned that the OTP suspended opening investigations into allegations of international crimes in Nigeria after nearly 10 years of preliminary examination. The reasons adduced include the lack of resources. Yet, the court's strategic plan 2022-2025 emphasises equal attention to all situations, and the principles of international justice regard all victims and situations of equal priority. Where the country is unable and unwilling to prosecute and bring justice to victims, the court should intervene. The expectation of millions of victims in Nigeria, arising from Boko Haram insurgency in north east, and the violent conflicts in the north central and south east, calls for the OTP to reconsider its position on opening investigations on the Nigeria situation.

With a marginal increase in the budget of the OTP between 2023 and 2024, and increasing situations and challenges, including inflation, there is little the OTP can do to meet the mission of the court. We call on considerable increase in the budget of the OTP, including on both pillars, so to provide resources for its increasing tasks.

Steering committee of the Nigerian Coalition for the International Criminal Court

Abuja, Nigeria, 16 April 2024