

Oral Statement

UN Human Rights Council 56th Session
Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review
Adoption of the UPR outcome of Nigeria
4 July 2024
Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance thanks the Nigerian government for its commitment to the UPR.

We welcome Nigeria's support to the recommendation to "ensure that the human rights of those accused of blasphemy are protected and ensure accountability for related mob-killings" and the recommendation to "address recurring inter-communal violence by conducting impartial, comprehensive investigations into systematic attacks and bringing those responsible to justice, encouraging peacebuilding, and ensuring redress for victims and survivors".

As highlighted in our stakeholder's submission, in the Middle Belt region and beyond, our partners on the ground reported on patterns of repeated violence on certain areas and villages, resulting in wiping out of entire areas of their native population, their houses, farmland, and places of worship, and resulting in the mass displacement of thousands of individuals.

The Nigerian government has failed to prevent and protect civilians from the increase of brutal acts of violence of which many Nigerians are victims, but most particularly Christians - with impunity.

We therefore urge the government of Nigeria to disarm members of violent armed groups including Fulani herdsman, boost security presence in Middle Belt communities that are vulnerable; investigate the perpetrators of violence, hold them accountable to the justice system and break the cycle of violence that is expanding to other areas of the country; and finally, ensure the safe return of those displaced by violence in the Middle Belt to their homes.

Thank you.