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The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to the latter's letter of 25 July 2012 entitled "**Communication from Special Procedures: Allegation Letter AL Housing (2000-9) Poverty (1998-11) NGA 2/2012**" conveying a Joint Allegation from the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council which is connected to the issue of alleged eviction and demolition of the Abonnema Wharf Community in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

The Mission wishes to convey verbatim, the response of the Government of Rivers State of Nigeria, as follows:

Abonnema Wharf is a slum of unplanned and haphazard settlement of about 2,000 residents along the Abonnema Wharf waterfront in the metropolis of Port Harcourt, the State Capital, in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The entire area on which the settlement is situated belongs to the Rivers State Government as State land, and in respect of which the State granted temporary licenses to the residents for temporary use, pursuant to the provisions of the State Lands Law of Rivers State (Cap. 125, Laws of Rivers State of Nigeria, 1999). Under the State Lands (Temporary Occupation) Regulations, licenses for the temporary occupation of State lands in the State, for the construction of temporary structures, may be granted by government to any person for a limited duration, not exceeding twelve months; and the government may at any time post on the area a notice to the occupier to quit the whole or a part of the area on or before such date as may be specified in the notice.

The high incidence of violent crimes and security challenges which ravaged the waterfronts within the State Capital, including Abonnema Wharf, made it necessary for the Government of Rivers State to recover the area from their temporary occupants and to develop it for overriding public purpose. Following this decision, some of the residents voluntarily vacated the settlement, while a few of them, numbering only twelve persons – went to