**Press Statement: 11th September, 2013.**

**DECISION OF PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER II OF THE ICC ON THE COOPERATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA REGARDING OMAR AL-BASHIR’S ARREST AND SURRENDER TO COURT.**

The Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 5th of September, 2013 cleared Nigeria of misconduct for not arresting President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan during his recent visit to Nigeria.

Nigeria Coalition for the International Criminal Court (NCICC) welcomes this decision and especially notes that in her defense to the court, the Nigerian government repeated her commitment to cooperate with the court and fight impunity. The Nigerian government in its explanation argued that Omar Al-Bashir was not invited to “undertake a visit to Nigeria”, rather, he appeared in Nigeria “ostensibly to attend the special summit of the African Union (AU) on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria which took place in Abuja from 15th – 16th July, 2013”. The Government further explained that Member states of the African Union do not require an invitation from the host government to attend such summit, in accordance with the decision of the Assembly of Heads of States of the AU at its Session in May, 2013 and the tradition of the AU Assembly.

This is a victory for justice for the victims of impunity in Darfur, Sudan. We applaud Nigeria’s commitment to cooperate with the ICC and urge the government to be mindful of its international commitments to stamp out impunity in the world.

**Chino Obiagwu**, Chair Steering committee of NCICC

**Dr Abiola Akiyode**, Vice Chair NCICC

**Oby Nwankwo**, Treasurer NCICC