



STATEMENT

BY

**AMINA J. MOHAMMED
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT/HEAD OF DELEGATION**

AT THE

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE MEETING OF
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-2)**

**NAIROBI, KENYA
THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2016**

Mr President, Excellencies,

Nigeria aligns itself with the positions of the Africa group and the G77 and china.

2. First, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. President and my colleagues, members of the bureau on our appointment to steer the affairs of this second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2). I should also like to thank the Executive Director and his team at the UNEP secretariat for their enormous efforts in facilitating our meetings, producing documents and reports to ensure a successful meeting that will meet the expectations of member states.

3. I also congratulate Achim Steiner for his excellent work and friendship as the Executive Director of UNEP and to wish him well as he begins a new journey in his amazing career.

4. Mr. President, Agenda 2030 as we all know, is one that aims to address the root causes of unsustainable consumption and production patterns, and transform them into sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods. Empowering people, taking climate action and protecting the environment are at the heart of changing the narrative and putting us firmly on the path of sustainable development. The cross cutting nature of the 17 SDGs and 169 targets therefore, requires integration, synergy and genuine partnerships for the Goals & targets to be successfully achieved. We need to remember our commitments in 2015, that no one should be left behind and as such our watch words must focus on Dignity, Rights, Respect, Tolerance and Hope, for without these words, we will surely leave many behind on the journey to Agenda 2030

3. In this regard, the role of UNEA in demonstrating strong multilateral leadership to drive the successful delivery of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 SD agenda is applauded. Similarly, as UNEP takes the lead in facilitating the implementation in our countries, we must continuously strengthen UNEP to provide the necessary support that will enhance the technical capacity and capability of member states, especially the developing countries.

4. Mr. President, my delegation's expectation of the outcome of UNEA-2 is to build on the gains and progress made since UNEA-1, taking into cognizance the need to strengthen our overall environmental governance. Of paramount importance are the 3 historic global commitments made in 2015, SDG's, Addis Finance Agreement & Paris Agreement and the need to ensure the implementation of National Plans of developing countries, addressing the increasing challenges of unsustainable use of our Natural Capital, issues of Chemicals and Wastes as well as Air pollution, amongst others. In particular, provisions for adequate financing, technology transfer and capacity development that will assist developing countries are critical. It is our belief that the draft resolutions that will be recommended for adoption at this high level segment, are products of very robust consultations that will set the path for concrete actions for implementing Agenda 2030. Mr. President we must sustain the ambition we attained last year in all 3 global agreements.

5. Mr. President, it is expedient to highlight that at the national level, Nigeria in a complex context of conflict, falling oil prices and governance challenges, is engaging in extensive consultations with key stakeholders including CSOs, young people and good business, to build the required synergy and partnerships that are fundamental towards our pursuit for the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the AU agenda 2063. We are going into a terrain not dared before by engaging the private sector, using the Nigeria Stock Exchange as a platform to take advantage of the opportunities and challenges of the Sustainable Development Agenda to drive the process of greening our economy.

6. Furthermore, we are strengthening our enforcement mechanisms to ensure that developmental activities to improve our infrastructure are done in harmony with the environment and people, especially women. Addressing pollution, the oil spills clean up in Ogoniland will be launched on the 2nd of June 2016 to flag off the commencement of a 25 year clean up process holding oil companies to account as we try to restore our ecosystems.

7. Finally, Mr. President I wish to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the role played by UNEP, the ED, Mr. Achim Steiner and his team at the critical stages of finding a way forward in the resolution of the oil spills clean up in the Niger Delta. The commitment of UNEP in ensuring science and expertise informed the ambition

of the SDGs. The role of the Finance Inquiry in bringing alternatives to the Addis Ababa Accord and finally the shaping of the Paris Agreement in defining the synergy between climate change and the Environment.

8. Your Excellences, Distinguished delegates, I thank you for your attention.