



STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MRS. HADIZA IBRAHIM MAILAFIA
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

AT

**THE OCCASION OF THE
18TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO
THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

AND

**THE 8TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES SERVING
AS THE MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

DOHA, QATAR

5 DECEMBER 2012

Mr. President,

I have the honour on behalf of the Nigerian delegation, to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 18th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. My delegation also expresses its profound appreciation to the Government and people of Qatar for the warm hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha. Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by Swaziland on behalf of the African Group and Algeria on behalf of G77 + China.

Mr. President,

2. It is clear to us that climate change has become one of the greatest threats to the socio-economic well-being of Nigerians and indeed the survival of our beloved country. Year in year out, we have witnessed across the length and breadth of our country, the disastrous and harmful impact of extreme weather-related phenomena on human lives and livelihood. This convinces us the more that climate change is real, climate change is disruptive to lives and livelihoods and climate change needs to be urgently tackled by the global community

3. The massive and widespread floods we experienced in Nigeria this year were unprecedented, given the historical record of climate events in the country. Many of my fellow citizens were rendered homeless and destructions of infrastructure and agricultural farmlands were attendant consequences of the flood which ravaged Nigeria between September and December of this year. It is sad to note, Mr. President, that several lives were lost and hundreds of thousands displaced.

Mr. President,

4. In Copenhagen in 2009, the aspiration of the global community to achieve a substantial outcome failed to yield the expected result. The same for Cancun in Mexico and if not for the doggedness of the developing countries, the Kyoto Protocol was almost killed and buried in Durban, South Africa.

5. Of course Mr. President, Durban offered all of us the window of hope that we could have advanced in our combined efforts to combat this global threat. Yet, we were so rhetorical, to the extent that it became difficult to

rebuild the trust necessary to address the more difficult issues of mitigation and finance gaps that remain under the Bali Action Plan and the Kyoto Protocol, which must be addressed to curb global warming and keep the world safe from its harmful effects. In this regard, the Nigerian delegation would like to see Doha conclude the agreed outcomes as outlined in the Bali Road Map as well as the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

6. Our collective resolve to achieve the targets and avoid a point of no return that could lead to catastrophic consequences for our environment should be brought to bear in the course of our deliberations in this Conference. There is therefore the need for concerted and collaborative efforts of Annex I Parties to meet their commitments and obligations.

7. The Federal Government of Nigeria has put in place a strategy to tackle the challenges of climate change, through a holistic and coordinated national approach. In this regard, a number of national initiatives and institutional reforms have been undertaken, including the approval of Nigeria's National Policy on Climate Change and the

National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action (NASPA). Furthermore, we have completed the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel and we have commenced implementation of our REDD+ Programme. Both initiatives are aimed at addressing deforestation, retarding the southward advance of the Sahara and contributing to climate change mitigation.

Mr. President,

8. While noting that we all agreed to the post-2012 commitment to the Kyoto Protocol, it is incumbent on this body to ensure broader participation of Parties in terms of trading certified emission reduction units earned from national implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. My delegation therefore, calls on the Annex 1 Parties to show more commitment in terms of emission reduction and the necessary political will required to see the process to a logical conclusion.

Mr. President,

9. In a similar manner, we call on all Parties to commit themselves to transparency and openness in the

contribution and disbursement of fast-start financing On our part, we are firmly committed to seeing that current areas of contentions with respect to the financial mechanism, adaptation framework, institutional arrangements, technology transfer and capacity building are resolved to the benefit of all Parties.

Mr. President,

10. Food security is of critical importance to our socio-economic wellbeing and survival, as it is for other countries in Africa. For this reason, we would like to see agriculture treated under adaptation.

Mr. President,

11. The current feeler from our experts is the foot-dragging of our developed country partners on the completion of modalities of operationalization of Green Climate Fund. Your Excellencies, Nigeria calls for immediate operationalization of Green Climate Fund to enable adaptation as well as mitigation activities in the developing countries.

12. Finally, **Mr. President, the Nigerian delegation is convinced that we have the collective ability to ensure that the outcome of this Conference will be comprehensive, adequate and equal to the task of addressing the fundamental challenges of climate change. What is required is just the requisite political will to act accordingly by doing what is right for our planet. Our expectation is that an ambitious emissions target must be set and met by the developed country Parties. They should also support efforts by developing countries to adapt to the negative impact of climate change.**

13. I thank you all for your attention.
