



STATEMENT

BY

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AT

THE OCCASION OF THE

19TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO
THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

AND

THE 9TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES SERVING AS
THE MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

WARSAW, POLAND

21 NOVEMBER 2012

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I congratulate you on your election as the President of the 19th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and assure you of our full support as you are leading our deliberations. May I also express our profound appreciation to the Government and people of Poland for the warm hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this magnificent city of Warsaw and for the excellent arrangement put in place to facilitate our work at this important Conference.

Mr. President,

2. Nigeria is witnessing the most dangerous impacts of Climate Change in the form of regular floods, heat waves and expanding desertification in a dimension almost unimaginable just a few years ago. We are yet to overcome the physical, material and psychological stresses consequent on the devastating floods that occurred in Nigeria in 2012. ***Despite the best efforts of the Federal and State governments, tremendous challenges still remain in the aftermath including that of my fellow citizens who are yet to be adequately resettled. We***

however give assurance that as daunting as the challenges may be, the Federal Government is determined to meet them.

3. Two years after Durban, the process is yet to agree on concrete work plan for serious discussions of the issues contained in the 'Durban Platform' as prescribed in the 'Doha Gateway'.

4. Durban offered a window of hope that we could have advanced in our combined efforts to combat the threat of climate change. The Doha Gateway provided a road map to achieving in 2015 what the process failed to achieve in Copenhagen. The process has been so full of rhetoric to the extent that it is increasingly becoming difficult to think of any progress being made. The knotty issues include mitigation and finance gaps that remain under the Bali Action Plan and the Kyoto Protocol that must be addressed to curb global warming and keep the world safe.

5. Climate change is increasingly becoming interlinked with development with clear indications that it is capable of slowing down development efforts by the developing

countries in general and Africa in particular. Our collective resolve to achieve the targets and avoid a point of no return that could lead to catastrophic consequences for our environment envisioned on science should be brought to bear in the course of our deliberations in this Conference. Nigeria calls for concerted and collaborative efforts of all concerned Parties to meet their respective commitments and obligations while operationalizing the Copenhagen Accord, the Cancun Agreement and the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

6. We have indeed agreed to the post-2012 commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. However, the issue of New Market Mechanism still lacks clarity. Yes, we embraced the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as a flexible mechanism to provide a platform for emission reduction efforts between the developed and the developing countries. But we ask - Is it a back door of replacing CDM and put Africa at a disadvantage when indeed they have adopted the mechanism?

7. *It is imperative for this body to ensure that African country Parties are not shortchanged again*

through the creation of another mechanism that would take time to understand when we all appreciate that timely actions is of essence in the fight against climate change. Too much time has been consumed while elaborating Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Land Degradation (REDD+) mechanism. Nigeria calls for operationalization of the mechanism as packaged now that the group has completed its work programme. In addition, efforts must be intensified with respect to renewable energy drives in Africa.

Mr. President,

8. *We need to make progress. Progress in this sense and in this process requires utmost transparency and openness.* Nigeria is firmly committed to seeing that current areas of contentions with respect to the financial mechanism, adaptation framework and institutional arrangements, technology transfer and capacity building are resolved to the benefit of all Parties. We need to urgently move from the design phase of the Green Climate Change Fund (GCF) to the operational phase.

9. Nigeria calls for urgency in implementing all the commitments and actions towards reducing the levels of emission both under the Convention and its Protocol through enhanced level of ambition with respect to emission reduction targets. Warsaw must craft a decision on how to ensure that finance is predictable, reliable and sustainable both in the pre- and post- 2020 period to enhance the implementation of the Convention by developing countries while they grow their development pathways with low carbon intensity footprints.

Mr. President,

10. Significant decisions have to be taken here in Warsaw to pave way for Lima and make 2015 realistic in Paris. ***Durban Platform must have an outcome agreement that is legally-binding in nature, which reinforces a fair, multilateral and rules-based regime guided by science; that brings into effect the right to equitable access to sustainable development, the sharing of atmospheric space and resources with the principle of equity reflected in all aspects of the elements in its contents.***

11. Finally, **Mr. President**, science has proved beyond reasonable doubt the certainty of climate change. ***So, are we standing collectively to ensure that the outcome of this Conference comprehensively address what we need to do as prescribed by the science to deal with fundamental challenges of climate change?*** It is the hope of the Nigerian delegation that this is the case, and we are here in Warsaw, prepared to work with all Parties in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation with a view to achieving the outcome that will be of benefit to mankind today, tomorrow and well into the future.

12. I thank you.