NATIONAL STATEMENT BY H.E. BALARABE ABBAS LAWAL, HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AT THE WORLD LEADERS' SUMMIT OF THE 31ST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP31) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE, ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2026

Your Excellency, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan;

Distinguished Heads of State and Government;

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I thank Your Excellency, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Government and people of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting COP 31 and for their commitment to advancing an inclusive, balanced and action-oriented climate agenda. Nigeria recognises the importance of this Conference in strengthening international cooperation and providing the leadership required to accelerate global climate action.

We convene in Antalya at a pivotal moment for global climate action. The imperative before us is to move beyond renewed commitments towards concrete actions and measurable outcomes that deliver tangible benefits to our people. COP31 must therefore serve as a platform for bridging the gap between ambition and implementation through an equitable and adequately financed climate response that recognises the differing national circumstances and development priorities of all countries

Nigeria approaches COP31 with the conviction that climate action must serve as a catalyst for sustainable development. Our climate transition must be aligned with national development priorities by expanding access to affordable energy, strengthening food security, promoting industrialisation, creating employment and improving livelihoods. In this regard, Nigeria reaffirms its commitment, under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0, to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32.2 per cent by 2035, relative to 2018 levels, while pursuing its long-term ambition of achieving Net-Zero emissions by 2060. These commitments underscore Nigeria's determination to contribute meaningfully to global climate efforts while ensuring that the transition advances inclusive growth, economic resilience and national prosperity.

For Nigeria, the energy transition must be just, inclusive and responsive to national circumstances. Nigeria remains committed to expanding renewable energy deployment while safeguarding energy security and improving access to affordable and reliable electricity. Natural gas will continue to serve as an important transition

fuel within our energy mix, complemented by increased investments in solar, hydro and other renewable energy sources. Our progress must therefore be measured not only by emissions reductions, but also by expanded electricity access, stronger industries, increased employment opportunities and improved livelihoods.

Adaptation and resilience are equally critical to Nigeria's climate priorities. Across Africa, the effects of climate change continue to undermine agriculture, threaten water security, damage infrastructure and disrupt livelihoods. Nigeria is strengthening its National Adaptation Plan through targeted interventions in climate-resilient agriculture, early-warning systems, flood and drought management, coastal protection and disaster preparedness. These interventions are particularly important for vulnerable communities whose livelihoods and economic opportunities are increasingly threatened by climate-related events. We must ensure that adaptation is supported by adequate resources and implemented in ways that deliver practical benefits to those most affected.

Nigeria is also pursuing innovative approaches to climate financing and investment. In September 2026, we commercially launched a US$300 million Distributed Renewable Energy Fund to mobilise capital for expanding access to clean and reliable energy. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to creating an enabling environment for private-sector participation and attracting investment into viable climate projects. We are equally strengthening our national carbon-market framework and advancing opportunities under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to mobilise additional resources for domestic climate action.

Our emerging high-integrity carbon market is intended to connect international capital with credible, measurable and environmentally sound projects. Following Nigeria's Article 6 cooperation initiatives, including the clean-cooking programme, we are working to ensure that carbon-market opportunities generate benefits for households and enterprises, support local manufacturing, facilitate technology transfer, create employment and mobilise new investment. Carbon markets must not simply facilitate the exchange of credits; they must contribute to improving livelihoods, strengthening local economies and supporting the transition to cleaner sources of energy.

Nevertheless, national initiatives alone cannot deliver the scale of transformation required. The global ambition to mobilise at least US$1.3 trillion annually in climate finance by 2035 must translate into accessible and affordable resources, particularly for developing countries. We call for increased concessional financing, reduced costs of capital, greater private-sector investment and reforms that address the debt vulnerabilities confronting developing economies. Climate

finance must be commensurate with the scale of the challenge and accessible to countries and communities most affected by climate change.

We must equally strengthen support for adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building, while ensuring that the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage delivers timely and meaningful assistance to affected countries. Developing countries should not bear disproportionate financial burdens in addressing a crisis that threatens their development prospects. International cooperation must therefore remain firmly anchored in equity, solidarity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Nigeria remains committed to an effective multilateral climate system founded on partnership and shared responsibility. We are determined to build a resilient economy, expand energy access, strengthen our industrial base and create sustainable prosperity while pursuing an orderly transition towards a low-emission future. We are prepared to collaborate with our international partners, the African Union, the African Group of Negotiators and other developing countries to advance these shared priorities.

Excellencies, COP31 must mark a decisive turning point in the global climate response, moving beyond commitments towards concrete action and measurable outcomes. We must strengthen the alignment between climate ambition, financing and implementation, ensure that investments translate into tangible benefits for communities and enterprises, and foster partnerships that deliver lasting and meaningful outcomes.

Nigeria stands ready to play its part. Let us move from pledges to performance, and from commitments to tangible results, ensuring that our collective climate response delivers a more resilient, inclusive and prosperous future for present and future generations.

I thank you.