



NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

**IBRAHIM USMAN JIBRIL
HONORABLE MINISTER OF STATE, ENVIRONMENT, AND
HEAD OF NIGERIA'S DELEGATION**

AT

**THE JOINT HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP23) TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE;
THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES SERVING AS
THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP13);
AND
SECOND PART OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
PARTIES SERVING AS MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
PARIS AGREEMENT (CMA1.2).**

**BONN, GERMANY
THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2017**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the President and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I congratulate you on your election as President of the 23rd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I assure you of Nigeria's full support as you lead the deliberations of the Conference.

2. My delegation also expresses its profound appreciation to the Government and people of Germany for supporting Fiji to host this very important Conference in this magnificent city of Bonn. We also wish to commend the warm hospitality accorded the delegation of Nigeria and the excellent arrangement put in place to facilitate our work at this important Conference.

Mr. President,

3. Nigeria is witnessing the adverse effect of Climate Change in all its forms; from rapid desertification in the north to humongous flooding in the middle-belt region, and coastal erosion in the southern part of the country. This has tremendously affected the economic, social, political and environmental aspects of our people with attendant threats to sustainable livelihood, health, and food security among others.

4. The Lake Chad Basin for example, which supports the livelihood of over 5 million individuals has shrunk to about 10% of its original size. This situation has contributed immensely to insecurity and several communal clashes due to diminishing sources of livelihood of the inhabitants. I therefore reiterate the calls for international collaboration and partnership to resuscitate the Basin.

Mr. President,

5. The Nigerian delegation arrived in Bonn with high hope and expectation of the outcome of COP23, especially on the development of guidelines on the implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement across wide range of issues, including those of adaptation, mitigation and the resources for their implementation.

6. We welcome the “**Talanoa Dialogue**” and seek your guidance and direction as we proceed in the spirit of collaboration and trust in line with the Paris Agreement. This will lead us collectively to a common ground for a successful 2018 facilitative dialogue. Nigeria also shares the same circumstance and views with African member states in terms of NDC implementation capacities.

Mr. President,

7. We are not in any way proposing to re-open the land mark Agreement but we support the call from the African member States that the best way to proceed is to show a demonstration of flexibility for African countries on climate change actions based on the principles and provisions of the convention and to ensure that differentiation is clearly reflected.

8. Let me also assure you that, 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 to remove barriers that impede developing countries from effectively accessing global climate finance such as the Adaptation Fund, and the Green Climate Change Fund (GCF) amongst others.

9. We call for a focused session that will make substantive progress through constructive discussions across all areas of the Paris Agreement work program in a balanced manner to enable us come up with a first-hand information on the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement well ahead of the 2018 Session including *accelerating the implementation of the pre-2020 commitments and actions and increasing the pre-2020 ambition in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision 1/CP.19*”.

Mr. President,

10. Up-scaling funding to address the impacts of climate change on livelihoods and ecosystems through an over-arching financial architecture to finance adaptation and mitigation measures is of high priority to Nigeria. This should include implementing the gender action plan under the Lima Work Programme on Gender.

11. To ensure the timely implementation of our NDC, Nigeria has developed a robust National Sectoral Action Plan across the five priority sectors; and has also embraced issuance of green bond, as an alternative source of funding green projects that would reduce emissions and provide robust climate infrastructure needed in Nigeria. This will also manifest in renewable energy, low carbon transport, water infrastructure and sustainable agriculture. Nigeria will launch the first “Sovereign Green Bonds” in Africa in the coming weeks. Similarly, we will continue to show a profound interest in contributing to effective global action on climate change.

12. Finally, **Mr. President**, science has proved beyond reasonable doubt the certainty of climate change. ***So, we must stand united to ensure that the outcome of this Conference comprehensively address what we need to do as prescribed by the Paris Agreement to deal with fundamental challenges of climate change.*** We are prepared to work with all Parties, in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation with a view to achieving the outcome that will be universally agreeable and beneficial to mankind of all generations.

13. I thank you for your attention.
“Au vakavinavinaka vei kemuni”