



STATEMENT

BY

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

AT

**THE 17TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO
THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

AND

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

**DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA
7 DECEMBER 2011**

Madam President,

I have the honour on behalf of the Nigerian Government, to congratulate you on your election as the President of the COP. Our Delegation also wishes to express its profound appreciation to the Government and people of South Africa for the warm hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this historic and beautiful city of Durban.

Madam President,

In Copenhagen, in 2009, the aspiration of the global community to achieve substantial outcomes failed to yield expected result. Cancun in Mexico, however, offered the window of hope that we could collectively advance in our concerted efforts to combat the negative effects of climate change threatening our existence. Our collective resolve to achieve substantive measurable targets and avoid catastrophic consequences for our environment should be conclusively realized in the course of this Conference. This, indeed, necessitates collaborative International

efforts of all Parties to meet their respective commitments and obligations.

Madam President,

We must take bold and decisive actions now. It is imperative that the first commitment period must not lapse. There must be no gap. Annex 1 Parties should show leadership and commitment to all previous agreements including the conclusion and adoption of the second and subsequent commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol. This will provide the basis for future action for an all-embracing international legally binding instrument on climate change. It is imperative that we implement the Cancun Agreements to address the increasing reality of the impacts of Climate Change.

We are much concerned that all the promises and pledges of financial resources made in Copenhagen and Cancun have not been met. The \$30 billion of Fast Track and \$100 billion for 2012 to 2020 action for climate mitigation and adaptation are yet to be realized. In COP 17, we are now confronted with two main issues.

These are: the operationalization and capitalization of the Green Climate Fund.

We expect the developed countries to meet up their financial obligations to the Fund and that its operation must clearly balance the adaptation and mitigation projects for the interest of developing world. cx

Madam President,

The effects of Climate Change are the greatest threats confronting our country and indeed the African Continent. In Nigeria, people are daily witnessing the impacts of these changes as a result of increasing occurrences of flood, erosion and desert encroachment in alarming and unimaginable scales, leading to challenges particularly in Agriculture and Health sectors. This unfortunate situation has led to social unrest and distortions in sustainable livelihood.

The Nigerian government in addressing these challenges has completed a Climate Change Commission Bill, which is aimed at institutionalizing Climate Change governance in Nigeria. This is in addition to a National Policy Framework on Climate Change.

We have further completed the National Adaptation Strategy and Plans of Action (NASPA) on Climate Change for Nigeria. The Nigerian REDD+ Programme has recently been approved by the United Nations to the tune of over \$4 million in the first instance to further its forestation programme.

Nigeria has also undertaken initiatives in renewable energy. We have flagged off a Solar Farm Project in Kaduna. Other State governments are buying into Climate Agenda with the purpose of promoting investment in green economy and generating employment. At the community level, a number of Local Governments are involved in the global initiatives on Climate Change and Climate resilient activities.

Finally, **Madam President**, we have no doubt that we have the collective will 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.

We therefore call on Annex 1 Parties to show the commitment and political will to see the process to a logical conclusion. Remember, a promise is a debt. Our expectation is

that an ambitious emissions target must be met by Annex 1 Countries. They should also support efforts by African Countries to adapt to the negative impacts of Climate Change.

I thank you.