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The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and has the honour to forward herewith, a copy of the Nigeria's National Statement for the ongoing 20th Session of the UNIDO General Conference. The Statement will be delivered in-person by **Dr. Bello Haliru Dogondaji (Head of Mission)**, preferably during the 7th Plenary on Thursday 30th November, 2023.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of UNIDO, the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 29th November, 2023.

**The UNIDO Secretariat,
Vienna International Center,
Vienna.**



NIGERIA'S NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. BELLO DOGONDAJI HALIRU

**HEAD OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

AT

**THE 20TH SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE, 27TH
NOVEMBER TO 1ST DECEMBER 2023
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Madame President,

My delegation congratulates Her Excellency Ambassador Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy, on your election as the President of the 20th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO and also congratulates all other members of the bureau on their election. My delegation expresses confidence of a successful outcome of this session under your leadership and assures you of Nigeria's full support. We appreciate the outgoing President of the 19th Session of the General Conference, H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani, former Permanent Representative of Tunisia, and members of his bureau for their outstanding work during the previous session.

Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Aftab Ahmed Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and His Excellency Ambassador Philbert Abaka Johnson, Permanent Representative of Ghana, on behalf of the African Group.

Madame President,

2. My delegation wishes to thank the Director General Mr. Gerd Müller for his introductory statements and outstanding service to the organization since assuming the role in 2021. Nigeria applauds the Director General for his initiatives which have so far enabled UNIDO to continue to deliver on its mandate of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Our appreciation also goes to the Secretariat for its hard work in organizing this General Conference.

3. We further acknowledge the long standing collaboration between UNIDO and Nigeria particularly the Country Program (CP) developed by UNIDO for Nigeria which was extended to December, 2023, within which significant achievements bearing on development in the agro-industry, renewable energy, textile and garment, and much more were achieved. UNIDO's crucial

supportive role in the development of the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP) in tandem with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation cannot be over emphasized.

Madame President,

4. In furtherance to the 8-point Agenda of the President Tinubu-led administration aimed at pushing Nigeria into a \$1 Trillion economy by 2026, a Presidential Council on Industrial Revitalization was set up and tasked with the responsibility of:

- Improving trade facilitation and ease of doing business,
- Promoting backward integration plans in various sectors cutting across healthcare, agro-industries, automotive manufacturing, and others.
- Improving access to credit for businesses
- Promoting skill acquisition and development
- Supporting MSMEs to develop and scale.

5. The Industrialization policies of the Tinubu-led government are not only about manufacturing and the rise of 'industries' but also revamping productivity in agriculture and in the services sectors. Nigeria has developed a Work-Out Poverty initiative (WOPI) where we will be training 10 million Nigerians to specifically support various sectors in the economy, specifically: manufacturing, construction, transportation, services & maintenance, agriculture, automotive and many others.

6. Similarly, in line with the present Administration's policy direction towards economic prosperity, food security, trade and investment, as well as diversification from oil to non-oil sectors, we envisage a decline in poverty rates in the not too distant future. The renowned financial services firm, Morgan Stanley, has recently released a report projecting a significant growth and

economic revival for Nigeria following the implementation of the new reform policies.

Madame President

7. Nigeria has made significant development in “green industrialization” leading us to reaffirm that environmental sustainability is a significant deciding factor in Nigeria’s Industrial development process. Our Industrialization policies are constantly being reformed across all sectors of the economy to ensure due alignment with sustainable and inclusive Industrial development. Nigeria’s commitment to “green industrialization” is indicated in the following key aspects of the National Industrialization Plan:

- Starting with the signing of the 2015 Paris Agreement subsequently ratified by Nigeria in March 2017 to serve as a policy guideline in Nigeria’s transition to a low carbon economy, culminated into the National Renewable Energy Efficiency policy (NREE) enacted in 2015 to stimulate the demand for renewable energy in the production and distribution of electricity.
- The development of the National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy (NCCPRS) 2021-2030 and Nigeria’s Renewable Energy Programme both advocate the adoption of new green industrialization initiatives and remain supportive to the execution of a low-carbon development project to provide electricity for Nigeria’s capital city - Abuja, through improved insulation, energy efficient devices for apartments and local power generation. May I add that the project is the first of its kind in Africa and second in the world, after that of Masdar City in the United Arab Emirates.
- Furthermore, Nigeria in partnership with the Tata Group of India are currently working out modalities for the institution of a mass transit

system powered by compressed natural gas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- At the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), Nigeria committed to achieving net-zero emissions by the year 2060, vying to shift from conventional fossil fuels to renewable energy sources like wind and solar to reach this goal.
- As part of Nigeria's dedication to the COP26 agreement, Nigeria enacted the Climate Change Act in 2021 to provide a functional framework for mainstream climate change management at a national level.
- Nigeria recently launched the Energy Transition Plan (ETP) in August 2022, designed to simultaneously tackle the challenges of energy poverty and the climate change crisis. The ETP supports achieving universal access to energy by 2030 and a carbon-neutral energy system by 2060.

Madame President

8. The initiation of these policies is not an end in itself and therefore incumbent upon us to harness the opportunities and enabling environment for trade and investment that these green industrialization policy changes have enabled as we grapple with several multi-faceted Challenges in our green industrialization efforts.

9. In spite of adequate public policy efforts, there is a plethora of evidence proving that the level of enforcement on green industrialization policies is low.

- The vast majority of industrial activities in Nigeria rely on fossil fuels for self-generated electricity, thereby creating a high demand for substitute to fossil fuels being the main source of environmental pollution in Nigeria.
- Nigeria is the largest consumer of oil-fired backup generators in Africa, with over 80% of power generation coming from Automotive Gas Oil.
- The adoption of green industrialization policies among MSMEs in Nigeria is low and most MSMEs only consider solid and liquid pollution with limited focus on pollution caused by gaseous waste.

- The limited local content, lack of liquid capital for technology supplies and technical know-how in the renewable energy sector remains a challenge to green industrialization.

Madame President

10. In this regard, my delegation acknowledges the need for a shift in mind set in Nigeria. However, this needed shift cannot happen without multi-stakeholder collaboration de-risks these opportunities and attract investments towards green industrialization. Several Governments in Africa including Nigeria, have taken the lead towards green industrialization but remain unable to design, fund and achieve inclusive and sustainable industrialization on its own. Strong, long-term partnerships are needed with business, civil society organizations, community groups, municipal government, finance and research sectors; where each one brings its own skills, networks and interests to construct a shared vision for sustainable and inclusive green Industrialization.

11. Developing financial and technical assistance solutions are key to stimulating green Industrialization. Therefore support is required in designing self-regulating policies that will encourage MSMEs to observe higher environmental standards.

12. We therefore welcome financial and technical support from private sectors and multilateral development partnership towards the implementation of the NCCP. This supportive effort will enable Nigeria to meet its global commitment towards greening industrialization, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Madame President,

13. Nigeria underscores the critical need for technical capacity building through accelerator programmes and training for solar entrepreneurs and developers, towards achieving green industrialization. Here, the importance of shifting our industrialization efforts away from being a marginal supplier of raw commodities becomes relevant to enable us harness the full potential of our

natural resources by diversification into greater value addition through processing, marketing and distribution.

14. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reaffirm to UNIDO that Nigeria's move to Green Industrialization is no longer a moral question or a global target but a precondition for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

I thank you for listening.