

**NATIONAL STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED ON THE 17TH SESSION OF
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO) FROM
27TH NOVEMBER - 1ST DECEMBER 2017**

Madam President

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I wish to congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election which is an indication of the confidence reposed on you to effectively steer this conference to a successful conclusion.

Madam President,

2. Nigeria aligns itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Ambassador of Angola on behalf of the African Group. In our national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks.

3. I would like to commend the purposeful leadership of the Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Li Yong in promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and the Agenda 2030, and repositioning the organization as a strategic partner of member states and a respectable player within the United Nations system. We congratulate you for the well deserved re-election as Director General of UNIDO for a second term in

office. I strongly believe that your re-appointment will provide the Organization the opportunity to further benefit from your estimable skills and experience. Permit me to also extend my appreciations to the secretariat for their work in preparing for this conference.

4. The theme of this General Conference "Partnering for Impact Achieving the sustainable Development Goals" is germane to developing and least developed countries including Nigeria. My delegation looks forward to expatiating on the theme and other important topics during the Conference in order to properly situate it within the Nigerian context.

5. Nigeria is also conscious of its rapid population growth which now stands at about 180 million. We have a youthful, energetic and hardworking population hence the need, more than ever before to grow our economy and generate employment for our teeming youths. This is the main focus of my government and it will continue to strive for an inclusive economic growth, that would ensure job creation.

6. Madam President, Distinguished delegates, taking into account the critical role industrialization plays in economic growth and development as well as the correlating need for energy, my country has developed a comprehensive master plan to address the energy deficit and achieve energy security. In this regard, the government is fast tracking a nationwide approach in our power reforms with effective strategies that will ensure improved generation and distribution of electricity in the country. This has resulted in progress recorded in various sources of energy

including hydro, solar and nuclear power respectively while taking into account, our commitments to environmental protection.

7. In order to attract investment and to further develop the productive sectors of the economy, my government has reviewed the Trade, Industrial and Investment policies under the Presidential Committee on ease of doing business mandated to ensure an enabling environment that would attract Foreign Direct Investment.

8. Similarly, my government is determined to diversify the economy from oil resulting in the launch of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) aimed at putting Nigeria on a path of sustained, inclusive and diversified economic growth. My government in collaboration with UNIDO, the Nigerian Agribusiness and Agro-Industrial Development Initiative (NAADI) has also established six Integrated Agro-industrial parks while the Single Crop Processing Zones (SCPZs) is in process.

Madam President,

9. Agriculture remains one of the highest priorities of my government, with the recent launch of the initiative called "Green Alternative" which sets out clear agricultural action plan and policy measures to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of rice, cassava, maize, sorghum, yam and other staple foods. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture is working with relevant agencies on value chain development for selected agricultural commodities in areas of production, marketing and processing.

Madam President,

10. We believe that Nigeria's emphasis on Agro-industries and Agribusiness as a strategic diversification policy is replicated in most developing countries. Africa cannot overcome poverty, youth unemployment and other challenges without industrialization. It is in this regard that UNIDO's mandate and activities are key and important to the industrialization process, as it requires a multi-stakeholders approach involving regional, sub-regional organizations, the international community, the private sector, international financial institutions and donor agencies.

11. In this regard, we wish to commend the efforts of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for its proclamation of (2016–2025) as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and the realization of the fact that Africa needs industrialization. Permit me to further commend UNIDO and relevant agencies tasked with the operationalization and implementation of IDDA III within the proclaimed time of the IDDA III framework.

12. I would like to further stress the need for UNIDO's continued support to Member States in the field of trade capacity building and job creation, agribusiness, particularly in middle income countries. We welcome UNIDO's efforts in the area of energy and environment in supporting Member States to increase their productivity while equally maximizing the use of resources which could lead to an increase in output and resilience.

13. Madam President, Nigeria welcomes UNIDO's Programme for Country's Partnership (PCP) new model and wish to express our desire to expand and upgrade Nigeria's current Country Programme to the status of PCP, focusing on selected sectors in the country for optimal result. In this regard, Nigeria solicits the continued support of the organization, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations and donors, to the vision of the PCP programme.

14. Finally Madam President, we thank UNIDO for its technical support and effective partnership with Nigeria, particularly in the area of Scaling up of Small Hydro Power and the Renewable Energy (Biomass sources). Nigeria reiterates its support to UNIDO in ensuring that its mandate of promoting and accelerating industrial development to enable Africa leapfrog its industrial development and achieve its goal of inclusive and sustainable industrial developments is achieved and sustained.

15. Thank you.