



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

By

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Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations

at the

**International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable
Development" 2028**

Held

at the General Assembly Hall

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Thursday 22 to Friday 23 March, 2018

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Mr. President,

Water is life, and clean water means health. Nigeria thanks the delegation of Kyrgyzstan and the President of the General Assembly for hosting this timely event to launch the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2028. Nigeria aligns itself with the statement made by Egypt on behalf of G77 and China and wishes to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

Nigeria is a party to the United Nations Declaration of the Right to Water, which entitles every one living in Nigeria to sufficient, affordable, safe and acceptable water for personal and domestic uses. Nigeria believes that Water is critical to the attainment of the economic and social prosperity, and is essential to survival. Sustainable Development is impossible without water. That is why Nigeria is in support of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and is committed to the survival of our shrinking Lake Chad Basin.

Mr. President

Permit me to use this opportunity to state how important the issue of water for sustainable development means to Nigeria. As currently, 65 million Nigerians are without clean drinkable water. In the spirit of not leaving anyone behind, Nigeria is striving to ensure that these vulnerable Nigerians are catered for while meeting target for the Agenda 2028 to ensure the availability of clean water to every Nigerian. The Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) is constructing dams mostly in the northern part of Nigeria where we have desert encroachment as a result of climate change for the sustainability of the works in collaboration with the National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) and development partners on sanitation

and hygiene issues to ensure a safe environment. Nigeria follows the national standards and targets as stated in the Water Sector Road Map of 2010, the Vision 20:2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Water Vision.

Mr. President

Nigeria is of the view that water is the driving force of all nature and that it is linked with every aspect of human existence to equip and sustain a people. Sadly, there are pockets of monitoring activities in the WASH sector. An estimated 100 million Nigerians still lack basic sanitation facilities and 63 million do not have access to improved source of drinking- water. Open defecation is still practiced by about a third of the rural population, while some 12% of the urban population also practices open defecation.

Mr. President

Nigeria is making tremendous effort to eradicate poor sanitation, excessive use of water and scarcity of water. The present administration has increased momentum for meeting this goal through the inauguration of the Partnership for Extended water. The Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) is working tirelessly to scale up access to water and sanitation by repositioning the relevant department/ agencies for efficient service delivery.

The previous Secretary-General (Ban Ki-Moon) rightly said "Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth, these are the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solution to one problem must be the solution for all." Nigeria reiterates its position to continuously support the implementation of SDG 6 knowing its importance to the development of our people. We are confident that the International Decade for Action: water for sustainable

development: 2018 – 2028", that we have launched today, will provide us with the opportunity to put our acts together to change this scenario.

I thank you.