

Nigeria position to the Zero Draft Outcome Document for Rio + 20 Summit; 20-22 June, 2012 , The Future We Want

BACKGROUND

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is committed to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Rio+20 process. Nigeria welcomes the objectives and themes of Rio+20.

Nigeria has not only participated in all the sessions on the CSD framework which culminated in the fourth implementation cycle of programmes aimed at ensuring sustainable development, but has also put in place a number of measures and initiatives in the various thematic areas and cross-cutting issues.

Preparatory sessions of the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in which Nigeria participated include:

- (i) Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) of the CSD 19, New York, 28 February – 4 March, 2011
- (ii) Africa Regional Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21 to 15 October, 2011
- (iii) Second Intersessional Meeting , New York, 15-16 December, 2011
- (iv) UNCSD Informal Consultations, New York, 16-18 January, 2012
- (v) 12th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Nairobi, Kenya, 20-22 February, 2012.

The Federal Government of Nigeria remains committed to the pursuit of environmentally sound and sustainable development that is equitable and socially inclusive for a prosperous, secure and sustainable future for our people and our planet.. This commitment is evident in the application and implementation of various sustainable development objectives, principles and goals, including

mainstreaming in relevant national policies, action plans, strategies, programmes and projects over the past twenty years.

Some of the instruments put in place by Nigeria include : Nigeria Vision 20: 20-20, Nigeria's Economic Transformation Blueprint; the National Policy on the Environment, some Government Economic Policies such as policies on Petroleum Pricing; Economic incentives for Gas Production and Utilization, policy on sourcing and granting of loans to small scale producers; Export Promotion Policy; etc have been formulated to enhance green economy, sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria welcomes the Zero Draft Document presented to this august Summit. This Country Document provides our specific positions on the Draft, subject to further negotiations at the Summit.

We are confident that effective implementation of the outcome of the Rio+20 process will bring about the desired change at all levels as we take the bull by the horn and truly match expressed commitments with concrete and time based actions to green our economy and improve the quality of life of our people, using the "bottom- up approach" for effective coverage in our quest to protecting this One Planet from further degradation and emerging issues of unsustainable development practices.

SECTION I : PREAMBLE/STAGE SETTING

Nigeria affirms her support to the contents of Section I(1-5) of the Zero Draft Document.

SECTION II : RENEWING POLITICAL COMMITMENT

A. Reaffirming Rio principles and past action plans

We align with the contents of Section II(A6-9).

B. Assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and

addressing new and emerging challenges (Integration, Implementation, Coherence)

We welcome the text in Section II(A10-16) and confirm support.

C. Engaging Major Groups

In line with the affirmation, Nigeria is delighted to confirm that within the last 20 years of RIO + 20 it has engaged all major groups such as gender and youth. It established the Ministry of Women Affairs as well as youth parliament under the Federal Ministry of Youth Development. Under Federal Ministry of Environment, there is also a Gender Mainstreaming Board working with the UNDP and other sectors related to environment in Nigeria such as Water Resources, Agriculture, etc all of which have gender desk officers. They have inputs always been engaged in all the processes. The views of the CSOs were also merged with the report of the ECOSOC groups.

Section II(C18) : Nigeria involves the civil society in every aspect of environment and development issues. They have access to information and make inputs regularly. Limited funds have hampered the extent to which they are funded. However, with the limited funds available they are being mobilized.

(C19): Private Sector involvement in sustainable development is still to a large extent low in the country but they are part of the preparation process and on-going meetings. Within the economic sector of Nigeria, the Government has, through, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) provided a window through which they can participate by giving concessions to banks, etc, that sponsor the sustainable development process. They are active in climate change, Renewable Energy, Biodiversity etc as at now.

The Nigerian government hopes to do more in the aspect of public private partnership (PPP), in tandem with the National Vision 20:20:20 and the Economic Transformation Agenda. It is hoped that the Private Sector will be encouraged to engage in full independent activities. Other areas of their involvement will be explored after the meeting.

(C20) : Local Governments in Nigeria are statutorily by structure under State Governments and by the system of administration, there is the Federal Government, the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), each with Local Governments (LGs) working on environmental issues. The focus, by Federal Government (FG) in the transformation agenda is on community involvement and LGs being more actively involved on issues of sustainable development. Efforts will continue to be made to ensure that they perform more active roles being organs that are closer to the grassroots.

(C21): Nigeria also has beefed up the involvement of indigenes, youths and other categories of children and their right to a clean and sustainable development. In this regard, many legal instruments related to environmental impact are been reviewed to ensure that their interests are taken care of. These include the replacement of social amenities displaced during mining activities. Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of Environment has strengthened its Environmental Assessment Department to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment regulations. For instance, where social facilities like schools, health, education etc have been displaced on account of projects, project executors are being made to replace them and compensation being given where necessary. All these are on-going and will continue to be improved upon. Efforts are also being

made to improve and empower the Youth through the Youth Parliament. The NGOs are currently working with them to get their inputs.

D. Framework for action

(D22): Several legal instruments have been put in place and are continuously being reviewed; while regulations are being formulated to ensure conformity with International Conventions that the Nigerian Government has acceded to. Some of the institutional and legal mechanisms for implementing the international agreements include, the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Nigeria Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Environmental Impact Assessment Act Cap E12 LFN 2004, Harmful Waste (Special Criminal Provisions, etc.) Act Cap H1 LFN 2004, Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Act, Cap E9 LFN 2004, etc.

(D23): The affirmation is acceptable. Nigeria is however working with both national and comity of nations viz; sub regional, regional and global, to ensure the achievement of goals and objectives of sustainable development. Among such are, the Great Green Wall Sahara Initiative, Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project, Lake Chad Regional Program for Wetlands Water Resources and Natural Resources, Conservation Basel Convention on Hazardous Waste and Substances.

(D24): Nigeria supports the affirmation for a global policy frame work requiring listed and large private companies to be integrated into sustainability issues within the reporting cycle.

III. GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

A. Framing the context of the green economy, challenges and opportunities

We are in agreement with (25, 26, 27, 28 & 29) which align with the position of African Governments.

(30): Nigeria acknowledges the fact that the Commission is working with developing countries to build a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and thereby call for the support of the International Community to fulfill their commitment as contained in the means of implementation under the different Conventions, as it relates to funding, capacity building and training, as partnership with various relevant sectors within the country. For instance, Federal Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Federal Ministry of Finance and others.

While Nigeria agrees with the contents of (31a-d), in addition, it expects that transition should not be used as an opportunity by developed countries not to fulfill their pledges. UNCSD is hereby called upon to take into account the specific needs of Africa in general and Nigeria in particular to address technology gaps through technology transfer, capacity building , training and funding.

(B 32): Nigeria affirms her commitment towards existing regulatory economic and fiscal instruments, investing in green infrastructure, financial incentives, subsidy reform, sustainable public procurement, information disclosure and voluntary partnerships that will assist in the achievement of overarching environmental sustenance.

Nigeria welcomes the initiatives in (33-34) and confirms its readiness to work with the relevant entities of the UN and other platforms aimed at achieving the contents of sections under reference.

(B35): In reference to the institutional framework, the Federal Ministry of Environment, currently coordinates the activities on sustainable development, integrating other sectors in partnership with bodies such as Federal Ministries of Women Affairs, Youth, Education and health for the social sectors as well as Finance and National Planning for the economic sector. This is in line with the role of the Federal Ministry of Environment under the MDG Goal 8.

The Nigerian Government is working towards establishing a Sustainable Development Commission to house the three aspects of SD; with a view to mainstreaming it into all sectors as a unit at a latter stage. The existing system is indeed working efficiently with strong stakeholder consultations under the guidance of the Federal Ministry of Environment and in collaboration with National Planning Commission.

With regard to the political commitment, the two MDAs are headed by Ministers of cabinet ranks who sit in the Federal Executive Council (FEC) which is the highest decision making organ of the Federal Government of Nigeria. Also, already in existence is a strong alliance between organs mentioned above.

With regard to (C 42), Nigeria supports the contents of para 42 (a, b, d, e, f and g). On 42c, it will be taken in its stride by Nigerian Government as situations demand in the country and subject to the study and advice of the Economic Team of Mr. President as well as inputs from stakeholders in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment.

We support the initiatives contained in (C23) in full.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. Strengthening/ reforming/ integrating the three pillars

B. GA, ECOSOC, CSD, SDC proposal

We support (A44 a-d) on Strengthening/Reforming/integrating the three pillars; as well as (B45) on General Assembly, while on Economic and Social Council we support all the three alternatives in (B49), that is, Sustainable Development Council.

C.UNEP Specialized Agency on Environment Proposal, IFIs, United Nations Operational Activities at Country Level

(C51) : On UNEP, Nigeria supports (51 alt.). In addition, it is recommended that the name be called “World Environment Organization” in order to reflect its new status.

(C52 – 53) : Nigeria supports the need for the review of the State of the Planet and Earth’s carrying capacity and enhancement of interface between science and policy making. However, in order to effectively collaborate with the relevant platform, Nigeria solicits to be part of the beneficiaries, hence, we reiterate our call for the strengthening of the capacity of Nigerian Scientists and policy makers in line with the contents of (C53) to make Nigeria’s input. In addition, we call for the strengthening of our statistical base. Furthermore, in line with Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, we call for a revisit with a view to implementing it for Nigeria and other developing countries.

Nigeria supports the initiatives contained in (54-87).

V. FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AND FOLLOW UP (contd.)

Climate Change

(A 88) : We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and express our deep concern that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to and are experiencing increased negative impacts from climate change, which is severely undermining food security and efforts to eradicate poverty, and also threatens the territorial integrity, viability and the very existence of small island developing states and those whose economy is particularly dependant on income from fossil fuel. We welcome the outcome of Cop 17 at Durban and look forward to the urgent implementation of all the agreements reached.

(A 89): We encourage international initiatives and partnerships to address the interrelationship among water, energy, food and climate change in order to achieve synergies as well as to minimize conflicts among policy objectives, being particularly sensitive to impacts on vulnerable populations.

Nigeria supports the initiatives in (A95-96).

Gender Equality

Nigeria endorses both the observation and the recommended solutions under the initiatives contained in (A102-104). In addition, we recommend that the issues of gender involvement should not be limited to metropolitan but extended to the grassroots so as to ensure that most policies of government affect youth, indigenes and women.

B. Accelerating and Measuring Progress

Nigeria welcomes (B105 – 111) in full, she however re-emphasizes the need for capacity building both institutional and individual. In addition, serious attention should be placed to research and development both at the organizational and institutional levels. Support should be given to existing structure in the Universities, center of excellence including the establishment of more centers of excellence.

C. Means of Implementation

Finance

Nigeria affirms her commitment and support for Para.112 – 116.

(C117) : In addition to this paragraph, Nigeria urges a further review of Global Environment Facility (GEF) counterpart funding contribution to ratio 1:1 in consideration of the existing economic situation of most benefiting countries.

Science and technology

Capacity building

(C 118-123) :Nigeria reiterates its stand that there should be collaboration with beneficiary countries. Research and development, monitoring and evaluation, data and statistics cannot be over-emphasised. Hence, we call for specific attention in this regard.

Trade

(C124-127) : We emphasise the need not to use trade as a tool for discrimination and trade disadvantage to Nigeria and other developing countries; rather, should be used to bridge the yawning economic gap between the developed and developing countries.

Registry/compendium of commitments

(C128) : Nigeria aligns with the commitments and calls for practical implementation of the compilation.

Conclusion

Concerning all the outcomes that Nigeria has acceded to, we are advocating a bottom- up approach from the grassroots in the implementation of policies so as to arrest environmental degradation, ensure environmental stability and sustainability and give ample room for environmental development. However, necessary logistical support including human, material, financial and other resources should be adequately provided through established procedures and due diligence devoid of bureaucratic bottlenecks.