



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

18TH REVIEW SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STATEMENT ON THE THEMATIC ISSUES

MANAGING MINING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to reaffirm its alignment with the positions canvassed by the African Group and Group of 77 on the issue of mining for sustainable development at this CSD review session.

I would like to emphasize that the Government of Nigeria is presently restructuring her mining industry to comply with national and global aspirations for sustainable development. We would therefore appreciate the support of the global community as we continue to deploy legal, regulatory and operational instruments provided in our 2007 Mineral and Mining Act.

One of the key areas of immediate need is institutional strengthening and capacity building including human resources development. In renewing our focus on sustainable mining, we are now more committed to enforcing the implementation of social and environmental obligations by miners to the communities where they are operating.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria has made great progress in promoting and organizing small scale miners, including carrying out environmental impact assessment for mining projects. Mineral markets have been developed and the provision of loans to small scale miners is in place. The challenge for the country is proper allocation of lands for projects, including preparation of active plans, metal and stock exchanges and the stakeholders' engagement. Further challenges include:

- a. Several and different types of models from the World Bank and other agencies in their efforts to encourage mining activities,
- b. Inability to ascertain the mining laws suitable for the country,

- c. Enforcement of the global monitoring system in the country,
- d. Effective education and understanding of exploration time laws and
- e. Provision of social security by the different tiers of Government.

Nigeria has carried out geophysical survey over a quarter of the mineral zones of the country. The country's National Geological Survey is also carrying out a second phase covering 50% of the country, to assist investors in setting up mines. In addition there is a national institution already in place to address Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Also the effort to expand stakeholders' participation is being coordinated under the auspices of Mineral Resources and Environmental Management Committee set up by the Government. Membership of the Committee includes mining operators, mining communities, and State and Local Government Authorities. We intend, in the coming years, to use this platform to open new vistas for effective partnership for sustainable mining activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, I would like to use this medium to confirm that Nigeria is committed to the implementation of regional and global partnerships for sustainable mining practices. We shall collaborate fully with all and sundry in promoting sustainable mining practices.

I thank you.