



## **FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DR. LAWRENCE C. ANUKAM, DIRECTOR ,  
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STANDARDS & REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NESREA) OF  
NIGERIA AND LEADER OF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION, AT THE FIRST  
MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, NEW YORK, 17 MAY 2010.**

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria wishes to associate herself with the statement made this morning by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you –the co-chairs and members of your Bureau for your election today to guide us in our preparation for this very important process – the Rio+20 – the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development scheduled for 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mr. Chairman,

There has been quite some progress on protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development since the first United Nations Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, to the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, and to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. These major milestones in global environmentalism have no doubt sharpened our thoughts and created/re-enforced institutional mechanisms at national, regional and global levels. They have also facilitated the introduction and negotiation of global agreements and treaties to address various environmental challenges facing humanity today.

But a lot still remains to be done. There are still many unfulfilled commitments and pledges since Rio. The rate of wealth generation in developing countries, particularly in Africa, is still abysmally low. The exportation of polluting and obsolete technologies from the developed to developing countries has not abated. Toxic and hazardous wastes, including e-wastes, generated in the North are shipped and dumped in the South. There is weak support to the full implementation of various environmental conventions and protocols, including the Rio Conventions, to check our human excesses on the environment.

Mr. Chairman,

The hope is not lost. The Rio+20 process and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development provide us yet with another chance to review and assess what we have done since 20 years ago. It will assist us to know how far we have gone in the implementation of those landmark Declarations and Action Plans, particularly the Rio Principles, the Johannesburg Declaration, the Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

As we prepare for Rio + 20, we should lay emphasis on identifying gaps and challenges that have impeded the implementations of those outcomes, and how to address them. The preparation should start at all levels – local, national, regional and global levels. The private sector, including multinational corporations, the civil society, and the academia, etc, should be fully engaged in the process leading to Rio.

Nigeria participated actively in all the major processes leading to the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, at the Summit itself, and all the follow-up activities. Following the Earth Summit, we developed our National Agenda 21 to operationalise and implement the outcomes of the Summit. We shall also be very active in all the preparatory processes of Rio+20 at national, regional, regional and global levels.

Thank you.