



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

BY

**Alhaji Mukhari S. Shagari of Nigeria  
Honourable Minister of Water Resources  
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

AT

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

**NEW YORK, April 22, 2005**

Mr. Chairman

Nigeria recognizes the need for increased national coverage for safe potable water supply and sanitation as well as sustainable water resource management. To enable us meet our new national development strategy, whose objectives are aligned with the MDGs and NEPAD, we have established a National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy. This includes Integrated Water resources Management Plan (IWRM). The plan derives from our National Water Resources Master Plan, which was adopted in 1995 in the backdrop of competing water uses. We have set for ourselves a target date of 2011, which is ahead of the MDG target, to achieve our water goals using the framework of Water for People, Water for Life.

The highest political in Nigeria is committed to the mobilization of resources and the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of water programmes. Water and sanitation are high on our economic development agenda. We have a Presidential Water Initiative led by the President that coordinates action at the Federal, State and Local government levels including civil society and non-governmental organizations. Our operational principle is that access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right of all Nigerians.

Many have already alluded to the magnitude of resources required to meet the water goals and targets. In Nigeria, our estimates indicate that we need to devote a minimum of \$720 million per annum over the next ten years to the water sector alone in order to achieve our water targets.

I would like to reiterate Nigeria's expectation that CSD-13 should provide action-oriented policies to overcome the constraints developing countries face in meeting the MDGs. There is no denying that the MDGs are inter-linked to other sectors that also exert enormous burden on both internally and externally generated resources. In particular I should emphasize the need for financial assistance, technology transfer, capacity building and market access to enable developing countries achieve their sustainable development strategies including the MDGs. In this regard, Nigeria would like to renew its call for debt relief, especially debt cancellation and debt swap for sustainable development.

I thank you.