Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria fully supports the statements of the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the G-77 and China. We appreciate the comprehensive and focused presentations of the panelists, including a package on the continent.

Africa is facing daunting challenges to address land degradation, agricultural desertification, rural development, in context, the continent is losing the battle to the conservation of its natural ecosystems, hunger the battle to the conservation of its natural ecosystems, deepening poverty and malnutrition, food security, and overall economic growth and social well-being and sustainable development. It is not due to lack of efforts by African Governments which having being under for an unending realism in good governance, democratization, face structural adjustments. The African Union at the continental level have initiated NEPAD as a framework for development for African countries. They have gone further at World Bank to adopt a multi-agency Green Revolution programme to address land degradation, and food insecurity, poverty, and overall well-being of people of the continent.

What is needed most of all is the support of the international community to enhance the efforts of African Government on policy implementation to address the level of financial resources which necessitate that of developed countries should fulfill their commitment to provide 0.7% of their GDP for official development assistance, despite the global financial crisis. The G-77 should give serious consideration to the proposal of the President of the World Bank to the effect that a special fund should be established to support developing countries to address the impact of the global financial crisis which falls within all the issues.
While appreciating the proposed initiative of the EU to provide One billion to Africa, to address the impact of the global financial crisis, we believe that a lot more need to be done to increase the capacity of African Governments to access adaptation funding and other interlinking financial mechanisms available to the GEF, regional and privately funded outlets. The Green Wall initiative by African is quite ambitious and should receive sustained attention of the CSF and the international community to enable it to contribute to addressing the targets of the millennium development goals. I thank you.