

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

THE 18TH REVIEW SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT)

STATEMENT ON THE ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

DELIVERED BY

DR. (MRS.) NGERI BENEBO, DIRECTOR GENERAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NESREA) OF NIGERIA

Madam Co-Chair,

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished delegates,

Nigeria would like to associate herself with the views expressed by Singapore on behalf of the group of 77 and China. We also want to express our appreciation to the expert panel for the excellent presentations.

Madam Co-Chair,

Despite improvement in the design and development of environment-friendly processes and technology over the last two decades, the increase in unsustainable consumption and production patterns has continued at an alarming rate. This trend has continued to widen the economic and social divide between the developed and the developing countries.

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is key to ensuring that the carrying capacity of our mother earth is not overstretched beyond limits, and to ensure that as we draw from her benefits we do not deplete her capital.

Madam Co-Chair,

Nigeria welcomes the work of the Marrakech Process so far. We would like the Process to be more inclusive and the information about the Process widely disseminated. There is also need to fully involve the private sector in the Process. We believe that the Marrakech Process will lend credence and support to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), which will chart a new course on the way we explore and exploit our natural resources.

In the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes, there is need for us to seriously consider the following issues: Identification of priority actions and initiatives at national, regional and global levels; Scaling up successful initiatives and programmes with support from the international community; and Encouraging innovative economic and financial mechanisms, including public and private investments.

Madam Co-Chair,

Nigeria believes that 'Corporate social responsibility', is key to promoting sustainable consumption and production. Corporate organisations, particularly the multinational companies operating in developing countries should not see 'Corporate social responsibility' as a charity programme to provide communal support in their local operational areas, but as an integral part of their corporate policy to ensure that no aspects of their operations are detrimental to human health and the environment, and that the wastes generated by their products and services are properly managed. There is therefore an urgent need for these corporations to include the concept of "Extended Producer Responsibility" in their corporate policy and adopt the "Take Back or Buy Back Approach" to ensure effective control of wastes generated by their products and services.

We also believe that full implementation of the various environmental conventions and the outcomes of the Rio and Johannesburg Summit are pillars in the achievement of achievement of sustainable consumption and production. Implementation of the Basel Convention in particular, and support for the implementation of the Bamako Convention, will assist to control illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, including e-waste, especially from developed countries into Africa, a continent that do not have the capacity to manage such wastes.

In conclusion, global efforts to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns will be more meaningful only when those who produce more and consume more are able to do more to address the emerging issues. Nigeria will continue to intensify efforts at the country level to ensure sustainable production and consumption. We shall also support efforts and initiatives, and partner with the international community on projects and programmes at the regional and global levels to address the issue.

I thank you, Madam Co-Chair.

I thank you.