



**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY ENGR. SULEIMAN, HUSSEIN ADAMU**

**HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES**

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**DURING THE**

**2023 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE MID-TERM  
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION  
ON WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2018-2028)**

**VENUE: GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL (UNHQ)**

**TIME: 9:30AM – 1:00PM/3:00PM – 9:00PM**

***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

**Mr President**

**Distinguished Heads of Delegations**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I wish to thank the Governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Tajikistan for co-hosting the 2023 United Nations Water Conference on the Mid-Term Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028).

2. Nigeria is endowed with adequate fresh water resources. However, the distribution in time and space is a major management challenge. Aware of the fact that Water is universal for sustainable development, essential for food production and general sustenance of life, the Government of Nigeria is taking concrete steps towards ensuring sustainable development of the country's water resources for the benefit of its people.

3. We identified the critical need to put in place the appropriate water resources legislation and ensure that all relevant policy documents are developed or reviewed to meet the current aspiration of universal access. The new Water Resources Bill which provides for effective water sector governance, catchment management and regulatory framework for private sector participation in water supply delivery, is currently receiving legislative attention at our National Assembly. The intended legislation aims to strengthen existing laws and complement the new National Water Resources Policy and Strategy being implemented.

4. Within the last seven years we developed a National Action Plan for revitalization of the WASH Sector alongside the declaration of a 'State of Emergency' on the Sector by President Muhammadu Buhari, a clear demonstration of political commitment at the highest level. In relation to this, we initiated various actions to achieve the much-desired aspiration of meeting the SDG 6 targets, which include the following:

- the 'Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH)' Programme, a national collaborative instrument towards improving access to water and sanitation specifically in rural areas.
- the National Roadmap and Programme to End Open Defecation by 2025 tagged "Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet" Campaign, backed by a Presidential Executive Order is on course.
- Inauguration of the Organized Private Sector in WASH (OPS-WASH) Forum, for effective coordination of private sector participation in the sector. Last year, Nigeria, in collaboration with OPS-WASH and the World Toilet Organization, hosted the 2022 World Toilet Summit with focus on sanitation innovations for economic development. We are building on the gains of the Summit to harness opportunities within the circular sanitation economy in the country.
- The bi-annual WASH National Outcome Routine Mapping (WASHNORM) Survey to monitor progress on the SDG 6 targets. In addition, we established the WASH Information Management System (WASHIMS), which is a database specific for WASH and integrated into the sector wide National Water Resources Information System (NAWIS).

- the SchoolWASH and HealthWASH programmes in collaboration with relevant sector Ministries, towards improving access to WASH services in academic and health institutions. The YouthWASH programme, aimed at harnessing the vibrancy and creativity of Nigerian youths in advancing national WASH targets, especially towards ending open defecation, was also initiated.

5. The Nigerian Government is committed to strengthening systems and ensuring sustainable management of our water resources using national, international and non-governmental collaborative instruments. Nigeria recently ratified the instrument of Accession to the UN Water Convention. We are also in the forefront at pursuing climate resilient approaches in the management of our national and transboundary water resources. In this regard, we call on the international community to fully support Nigeria's quest in saving the Lake Chad from extinction, with the potentially disastrous consequences this would have on the lives of about 40 million people.

6. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, for too long the World has paid little attention to Water. This Conference offers an opportunity to renew focus on the importance of Water and its bearing on the well-being of Planet Earth. Nigeria, therefore, fully supports the call for the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water, and preferably a High Level Personality from Africa, being the Continent that continues to face the most critical challenges of access to potable water, climate change and transboundary water resources management.

7. I thank you all for your attention.