



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

18TH REVIEW SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STATEMENT ON THE THEMATIC ISSUES

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS for NIGERIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to align with the positions of the African Group and Group of 77 on “meeting the challenges of Transportation needs in the 21st Century” during this review session.

The Government of Nigeria has embarked on the bold project of integrating all sectors of her transport systems consisting of 198,000 km of road; 3,500 km of rail, 8,600 km of inland waterways and about 22 airports. This initiative is a key aspect of her current national development agenda and is being implemented by a combination of old and new institutions such as Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Inland Waterways Authority, Nigerian Airspace Regulatory Agency, e.t.c. Some of the specific activities being executed in this respect include modernization of old track-gauge and construction of new medium gauge of rail tracks, procurement of new rolling stocks, dredging of 572 km of the lower Niger River and construction of inland ports, implementation of total radar coverage for Nigerian airspace, e.t.c.

With respect to road transport which by far is the most important means of movement in Nigeria, the country has embraced ‘road concessioning’ option. This initiative has drawn fruitful private sector participation in highway construction and maintenance. To complement this, we are implementing local and sub-regional partnerships on road safety, standardization and emission control measures. We have achieved complete phasing out of lead in Nigerian gasoline since 1993. We have also carried out graded ban on importation of old cars.

Mr. Chairman,

At urban or metropolitan level, Nigeria has commenced the process of adopting the best practices of Bus Rapid Transportation (BRT) and this has been successfully launched in the Lagos metropolis. We are equally involved in regional collaboration for sustainable transport management through the West African Road Safety Organization (WARSO) and participation in the Trans African Highway Project.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Nigeria will appreciate the support of the international community in building requisite technology, institutional capacity and human capital towards achieving sustainable transport system in the country.

I thank you.