



National Statement Delivered on Behalf of  
the Federal Republic of Nigeria

by

HIS EXCELLENCY,

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HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR PETROLEUM RESOURCES

AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF  
UNISPACE + 50

Vienna, 20-21 JUNE, 2018

Your Excellencies,

Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which also marks the special segment of the fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation would like to assure you of its support and cooperation as you preside over deliberations of this session.

2. I have the honour to thank H.E. President of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen for declaring open the UNISPACE + 50 and appreciate his opening remarks.

3. My delegation wishes to express appreciation to the Director-General of the United Nations Offices in Vienna, and the Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), for their statements. I would also like to extend its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for its usual dedication and adequate arrangements made for this Session.

4. My delegation would like to welcome applications submitted by Cyprus, Ethiopia, Finland, Mauritius and Paraguay to join the membership of the Committee.

5. Nigeria aligns its position with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

6. Today is a significant and an auspicious moment as we mark the mega event of UNISPACE + 50 which will afford us the opportunity to advance our roadmap in the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space for the benefit of humankind in a sustainable manner having critically evaluated our activities in the past fifty years. Celebrating this mega event comes with the endorsement of the draft resolution entitled: **“Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development”** which will chart a course for the future of space exploration expected to be outlined in the work-plan of a “Space2030” Agenda.

7. I wish to recall that deliberations of preceding UNISPACE events led to the establishment of the Space Application Programmes which have been of benefit to developing countries in capacity-building activities and in fostering

international cooperation. My delegation wishes to highlight the fact that the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education (in English) is a product of the Space Application programme of the COPUOS.

8. It has been 15 years now since Nigeria launched its first earth observation satellite into orbit through the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) which eventually led to our membership of the International Charter, Space and Major Disasters (ICSMD). Nigeria's advancement in space exploration modest as it may seem, has spurred our vigour to excel further to make lives better for our people. In June 2017, Nigeria launched a Nano Satellite to the International Space Station. This feat has again re-affirmed the Nigeria's commitment to the implementation of its Space Roadmap, particularly in the area of capacity building and domestication of space activities and resources

9. It is worth recalling that Nigeria took part in efforts to support the establishment of the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) programme which in 2016 celebrated its tenth anniversary. The presence of the UN-SPIDER programme has made a positive impact in Nigeria and West Africa. The Regional Support Office (RSO) for UN-SPIDER located in Nigeria saw the collaboration of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and NASRDA in order to fathom an effective disaster management system.

10. Nigeria has not relented in its pursuit for efficient management of disaster as it has been working assiduously to prepare for it, reduce its risks and also make post-disaster recovery effective in affected areas. Through the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency, (NEMA), Nigeria has continued to engage and champion disaster management activities both at National and International levels. Such a cause has been demonstrated by hosting of the Fifth Africa's Regional Platform in Abuja, National Sensitization Workshop on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Nigeria also produced and validated a plan of action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, established and set up machinery to further strengthen the National Platform for DRR and also developed a draft National Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction.

11. Climate change has had a negative impact in the environment as it is one of agents of natural disasters in the country. It has negatively affected our socio-economic activities leading to low productivity, low economic growth, social conflicts, diseases, human migrations, cross border conflicts and rise in crime rate, among others. One notable example of these phenomena is the diminishing water levels of the Lake Chad which has negatively impacted on

the economic viability of the lake's basin thus triggering mass migration, conflicts and crises in the region.

12. The inhabitants living around this lake depend on it for crop and livestock farming, fishing, commerce and trade. Due to climate change and human activities the size of the lake has reduced from 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> to less than 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> in just over 50 years.

13. In a bid to address challenges facing the lake, the Government of Nigeria hosted the International Conference on Lake Chad, themed, "Saving the Lake Chad to revitalize the Basin's ecosystem for sustainable livelihood, security and development". The conference was organized by Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin Commission with the support of the United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

14. It is pertinent to note that monitoring of the lake and observation of activities within its basin were conducted via radar remote sensing. In this regard, my delegation recognizes the imperatives of the concept of non-discrimination in data availability as introduced by the Principles relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space. There is no doubt that the use of geospatial data for sustainable development has had a positive impact in areas like agriculture, disaster monitoring and soil degradation assessment and has been enhanced in a timely fashion. This principle has also promoted transparency and confidence building among countries.

15. Nigeria also recognizes the importance of international cooperation for the development of space science and technology and will work assiduously to further promote it at all levels in order to achieve the objectives of its space programmes for sustainable development and the systematic approach towards the development and exploitation of all Earth resources for the betterment of society.

16. Having mentioned all the developments and concerns adduced above, Nigeria would like to express its appreciation to some developed countries and space-faring nations for their respective efforts in enhancing capacity building in Nigeria and other developing countries. It should be noted that technical international cooperation featuring capacity building comes a long way in assisting developing countries achieve their aims in fighting poverty and creating jobs by expanding their technological base. The post 2015 development agenda implies the application of space technology as being central to the socio-economic development of States.

17. On this note, Nigeria would like reiterate its position emphasizing on equitable access to space domain for all States regardless of the level of space technology advancement they have attained.

Thank you.

