



STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY MR. SAMUEL ORTOM, HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT AT THE 41<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB) AND THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO) HOLDING IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2013.

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguish Delegates, I will like to join other delegates in congratulating the Chairman for his election to lead this session and for the excellent ways in which you have conducted the affairs of the conference.

2. As a member of the IDB, a policy organ of UNIDO comprising of 53 countries, Nigeria is expected to participate actively in the on going structural changes in the organization, which will culminate in the appointment of the next Director General. We acknowledge that under the new dispensation and with



UNIDO's SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat) analysis programme, the organization will be positioned to promote better service delivery to the member states.

**3.** Having noted the effect of recent financial and economic crises, which was aggravated by negative environmental trends, of which climate change has the most critical consequences. Energy access for countries like ours is one of the most pressing of all the challenges and is central to all the three pillars of Sustainable development, which if properly addressed could turn around many industries in our countries

**4.** In fulfillment of the mandate by the UN Secretary-General to UNIDO, which is to pursue a potentially



pragmatic and achievable role to a sustainable industrial development through a shift to global green economy.

This could lead to new industrial revolution, whose aim is to promote large scale industrial transformation, using low emission technologies and resource-efficient growth for the benefit of all mankind. Nigeria in line with other member states is re-shaping its developmental paradigm in industrial operations to promote resource efficiency and is also prepared to collaborate with the international community in order to adapt to the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Global tracking Framework as encapsulated in the recently concluded Vienna Energy Forum.



5. It is necessary to note with appreciation the significant contributions of UNIDO in Nigeria especially in its efforts towards achieving sustainable industrial development which is in line with country's economic blue print. Special mention must be made of UNIDO's collaboration with the country on those activities that were in line with the Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria. In that connection, therefore, Nigeria will continue to welcome partnership with UNIDO in order to benefit from the organizations necessary expertise in the field of Agri-business and Agro-industries; Solid Minerals Industries; Petrochemical Industry; and the Services Industry where the country is believed to have potentials to attracting Foreign Direct Investments.



6. With agriculture being one of the main areas of priority for the government, it is important for the country to continually solicit the support of UNIDO's expertise in promoting Agribusiness and Agro-Industrial Development Initiative (NAADI), which I am glad to say we are handling in collaboration with the UNIDO Regional Office in Nigeria.

7. Special attention must be paid to youth unemployment in our countries. It is therefore very necessary for our countries to take into consideration and ensure that while focusing on industrial development, the employment of youth and development of their entrepreneurial skills should be a topmost priority. In this respect, the Federal Government of Nigeria appreciates the contribution of



UNIDO in organizing the on-going JOB FAIR in Abuja and Lagos and requests the organization to ensure the success of the scheme.

8. Given the importance of UNIDO to the developing countries in general, Nigeria is committed to the successful outcome of the discussions on the future of UNIDO without necessarily impacting negatively on the sustainable developmental projects by the organization in member states, and not the least, activities leading to the appointment of next the Director General.

9. Let me conclude by congratulating Dr. Kandeh Yumkella for his successful tenure of office as the Director-General of UNIDO and the commendable work



he has done and to wish him all the best on his next assignment in the area of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL).

**10.** I thank you all and wish you a successful deliberation.