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NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

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HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AT

THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP16) AND THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES SERVING AS MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP6)

CANCUN, MEXICO
7-10 DECEMBER 2010

Madam President,

I have the honour on behalf of the Nigerian delegation to congratulate you on your election as the President of the sixteen session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. My delegation would want to express our profound appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for the warm hospitality accorded us since our arrival in the beautiful city of Cancun. I wish also to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his clear and resolute leadership in mobilizing global commitment to reach a successful outcome at this Conference. I equally commend the tireless efforts of the Executive-Secretary, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in her preparatory work leading to this summit.

2. Madam President,

The urgency of global warming, its complexity and portent danger has become one of the greatest challenges to humanity and sustainable livelihood. In Copenhagen in 2009, the aspiration of the global community to achieve substantial outcome sadly did not yield the expected result. The issue of lack of transparency, entrenched regional differences and lack of commitment to up-hold the Kyoto Protocol contributed largely to that failure. Our collective resolve to achieve targets in keeping with, at least 2 degrees Celsius, as a point of no return for catastrophic consequences for our environment, based on IPCC report, will be tested in the course of our deliberations in this Conference. However, this does not satisfy the African position for at least 1.5 degree Celsius suggested at Copenhagen. There is therefore the need for concerted and collaborative efforts of all Parties to meet their respective commitments and obligations.

3. Madam President,

It is imperative that the two-track approach to climate change negotiations continues towards ensuring a post 2012 commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. My delegation therefore, calls on the annex 1 Parties to show the commitment and the political will required to see the process to a logical conclusion. In a similar manner, we call on all other Parties

to commit themselves to the need for utmost transparency and openness in this process.

4. Madam President,

As a part of balanced package, we are firmly committed to seeing that current areas of contention with respect to the financial mechanism, governance structure for long term financing, adaptation means and institutional arrangements, technology transfer and capacity building are resolved to the benefit of all Parties. Nigeria also believes that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (**REDD**) is a key instrument for countries in Africa to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We urge the International Community to reach an agreement on REDD here in Cancun.

5. Finally, **Madam President**, we expect the outcome of this conference to be comprehensive, substantial and equitable to the task of addressing the fundamental challenges of climate change.

Thank you