STATEMENT

BY

H.E MUHAMMADU BUHARI

PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AT THE

22ND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO, 15 NOVEMBER 2016

Protocols:

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I congratulate your Excellency on your election as the President of the 22nd session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and assure you of our full support as you lead our deliberations.

2. May I also express profound appreciation to His Majesty, King Mohammed the Sixth, the Government and people of Morocco for the warm hospitality accorded us since our arrival in this magnificent city of Marrakech and for the excellent arrangements put in place to facilitate our work for this important conference.

3. We have reflected our determination for green growth in my country's ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contribution. We have also announced our plans to reduce emissions by 20% by the year 2030, with the intention of raising this target to 45%, with the support of the international community. This is one of Africa's most ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contributions — covering all emissions from all parts of the economy.

4. This commitment comes from the recognition of the grave social, economic and environmental threats that climate change poses to humanity. In Nigeria for example, the impact is being felt by more than 2.1 million people displaced by devastating floods that the country has continued to suffer since 2012. If not addressed by 2050, the human and financial cost would be colossal. For us in Nigeria, the larger dimension of the challenge goes beyond emission rights. Survival rights are also at stake.

5. At the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, we were reminded, and we indeed agreed that climate threats and security threats go hand-in-hand. We cannot deal with one without dealing with the other. Both are global problems that demand global solutions.

6. The Lake Chad Basin for example, has shrunk to a mere 10% of its original size, and this has seriously affected the livelihood of over 5 million people and contributed in the growth of insecurity in the region, including the emergence of Boko Haram as a terrorist group. Hence the urgent need to resuscitate Lake Chad. In this regard, I seize this opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation to those who have responded to our call and to encourage other well meaning partners to join in our efforts to revive the Lake Chad Basin.

Mr. President,

7. We welcome the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4th November 2016 and hope that the implementation phase would avail all of us a historic opportunity to re-orientate our economies, to build inclusive, sustainable societies that respond to climate change and support Sustainable Development Goals.

8. In Nigeria, we are launching a strategic plan for the implementation of our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and we have equally embraced the issuance of green bonds as an innovative means and alternative way of raising climate finance both locally and internationally. We cannot afford to wait until 2020. We are already making far reaching changes to all sectors of our economy including through:

Substantially increasing the use of climate smart agriculture

Diversification of our energy mix through renewable and efficient gas power

Creating a more efficient, cleaner and lower-carbon oil and gas sector especially through a gas to energy programme

E. Initiated the implementation of the clean-up of the Ogoni-Land in the Niger-Delta region

9. We believe that pursuing these programmes will not only reduce emissions and improve climate resilience; but also stimulate growth and economic opportunities in the private sector. Our goal is to make Nigeria one of the world's best examples of how reducing emissions can benefit the environment and economy.

10. However, we cannot do this alone. Addressing climate change is a shared responsibility as its negative impacts are universal. We, therefore, stand ready to engage in meaningful partnerships to tackle the menace, and call on our neighbors and developing partners to fulfill their financial obligations in support of efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

Mr. President,

11. The onus must now be on us as political leaders, to recommit ourselves to the achievement of the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement that we collectively signed in 2015 for the benefit of this and future generations. Nigeria has submitted its instrument of ratification for the new global agenda on climate change. We urge others to do the same in order to make the world a safe place.

12. I thank you.