

I have the great honour to address the High Level Segment of this 18

th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. We align ourselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Considerable efforts have been made over the last 23 decades particularly since the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and the Johannesburg Summit 2002. But a lot still remains to be done. There is still high level of poverty in developing countries. The problem of climate change is now staring us on the face. We are still faced with the problems of biodiversity loss, land degradation, desertification, industrial, air and water pollution. We are also facing the problem of illegal movement of hazardous wastes generated in some parts of the earth and being dumped in another part of the same earth with enormous implications on human health and the environment.

As we deliberate on the thematic issues before us at this session, we should not lose sight of all the important global agreements and decisions reached so far at various fora to protect human health and the environment. We should examine critically how we have fared as members of the global community to advance the course of sustainable development. It is our hope that as we prepare for the review of MDGs in September this year and the Rio+20 in 2012, we should identify gaps, weakness and the way forward to ensuring that the earth remains a safe place for us and the generations coming after us. The thematic issues before us at this 18th Session are critical for achieving sustainable development.

On transportation, the Government of Nigeria has embarked on a bold project of integrating all sectors of her transport systems consisting of 198,000km of road; 3,500km of rail, 8,600km of inland waterways and about 22 airports. Government is currently

illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals; substitution of toxic chemicals with less harmful alternatives; promotion of more environment friendly practices by industries; and sustained public awareness campaigns and education on chemicals handling.

Nigeria like many other developing countries faces the perennial problem of waste management. This has given her a very serious challenge in spite of the huge investment in that sector. The challenge is further compounded by rapid population growth in many of the Nigerian cities where wastes are generated faster than their collection, transportation and disposal.

Nigeria takes the issue of e waste seriously. The developing countries including Nigeria have become the dumping ground for near end of life and end of life electrical, electronic equipment and materials. This informed the decision of Nigeria to host the International

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must be entrenched in such business models. Global efforts to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns will be more meaningful only when