



NIGERIA'S STATEMENT

AT THE

**76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)
ON HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

24TH SEPTEMBER 2021

**Mr. President,
Excellencies
Heads of States and Government,
Secretary General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to begin by thanking Secretary-General, António Guterres, for convening this important High-Level Dialogue on Energy. Access to energy is essential in our daily lives and plays a vital role in the development of all economies. A transition to clean and sustainable energy is also essential to address our climate emergency. Although energy is essential to all nations and economies, we must recognize that the energy transition for each country, especially developing countries, will and must look different. Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to a Just Transition – in line with Nigeria’s role as a Global Theme Champion for the Energy Transition theme of the High-Level Dialogue on Energy.

2. Nigeria’s commitment to a just transition is reflected in our ambitious Energy Compact, which includes the Government’s flagship project to electrify 5 million households and 25 million people using decentralized solar energy solutions. This is a major first step towards closing our energy access deficit by 2030. Nigeria’s commitment is also reflected in the development of our Energy Transition Plan.

3. As a global leader on the energy transition, it is imperative that I flag a major risk to development that stems from the current narrative around energy transition, particularly on the role of gas and the lack of financing. Nigeria’s Energy Transition Plan has laid out our roadmap to reach net-zero and highlights the scale of the effort required, which includes the development and integration of renewables into current grid infrastructure at tremendous scale and electrification of all sectors. This is challenging for any country but especially for a developing country. For our development objectives, gas will have a key role to play here for some years before being phased out.

4. The Energy Transition Plan also highlights the scale of financing required for Nigeria to achieve net-zero, which amounts to over \$400 billion across the Nigerian economy in excess of business-as-usual spending over the next thirty years. This breaks down to \$155 billion net spend on generation capacity, \$135 billion on transmission and distribution infrastructure, \$79 billion on buildings, \$21 billion on industry and \$12 billion on transport. Nigeria would also have to integrate additional capacity of 7GW each year into the grid to achieve

net-zero of which we are committed to do through our ongoing projects within the Nigerian power sector reform programme.

5. Despite this financing gap and the critical transition role for gas, Nigeria and other developing nations are being told to stop investing in gas when the discussion should be on ensuring there is a clean energy offer on the table. The focus of our discussions on transition must now evolve into how we help countries develop detailed energy transition plans and commitments to mobilize enough financing to empower countries to implement those plans.

6. These plans must be based on data and science to provide a viable path for countries to reach net-zero by our target deadline. These plans must also take into account providing access to electricity and clean cooking solutions for those in Nigeria and around the world currently without. An often-overlooked point is the essential role of gas in addressing clean cooking challenges. Globally there are 2.6 billion people who lack access to clean cooking - which is unacceptable. Even more concerning is that solid fuel cooking in Africa causes almost 490,000 premature deaths annually, making it the second largest health risk in Africa.

7. With less than 10 years to 2030, 2021 is a pivotal year to deliver, to reset the global economy and close gaps in energy access and ensure that no one is left behind. There is no doubt that clean energy investment will support many countries to recover better, lift millions out of energy poverty and rebuild their economies. Let me therefore reiterate Nigeria's commitment to the energy transition, but we now need support from developed countries to unlock the financing needed to accelerate a just energy transition for all. As I stated earlier, Nigeria alone will require \$400 billion to be spent across our economy in excess of business-as-usual spending over the next thirty years.

8. Excellencies, Nigeria has affirmed our commitment to transition. It is now time for the global community to deliver on their commitment and support developing nations with a clean energy offer.

9. I thank you for your attention.