

**STATEMENT BY THE SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
ON SDGs AT NIGERIA'S SIDE EVENT AT THE 2017 UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**VENUE: UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK**

**TIME: 1-3PM**

Protocol.

It is heartwarming to have eminent persons and key stakeholders in the development space gather in this Chamber to deliberate on the very important theme of localizing the SDGs through partnerships and innovative resource mobilization. Your presence here indicates that you fully comprehend the need to build on the commitment jointly made to implement the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. This is particularly important as we leverage partnerships to build synergies and mobilize the resources required for durable development.

2. Nigeria's affirmation of the SDGs Declaration has been backed with action as Government is providing the leadership required to ensure that the Agenda delivers the intended impact without leaving anyone behind. This is in view of the fact that the SDGs align with our development priorities having been integrated into our planning and budgeting frameworks as evidenced by its robust mainstreaming into Nigeria's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan.

3. Nigeria has defined a clear path to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda as succinctly underscored in the MDGs End-Point Report, the Country Transition Strategy on SDGs and its Implementation Plan. Nigeria has made significant strides in meeting data requirements needed to benchmark progress by mapping existing SDGs data and by establishing baseline statistics for more than 126 SDGs Indicators.

4. In view of the magnitude of the resources needed for success, Nigeria is expanding the fiscal space for SDGs implementation by conducting a Needs Assessment and Costing exercise in order to provide evidence for effective resourcing of the 2030 Agenda. This is crucial considering the broad scope of the SDGs.

5. In order to strengthen the institutional mechanism for SDGs implementation, the Presidential Council on SDGs was recently inaugurated with His Excellency, Mr President, as the Chairman. This signifies unwavering commitment at the highest level of Government to the Global Goals. The Presidential Council will provide direction and support the overall implementation of the SDGs Agenda.

6. To deepen stakeholder engagement, Nigeria has already established standing committees at both the upper and lower chambers of the National Assembly to provide oversight function for SDGs implementation. The Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs as well as the Donors' Partnership Forum on SDGs have since commenced work after their inauguration. Synergies are also being built with subnational Governments to ensure that global policy translates to action at the grassroots. Similar partnerships are being envisaged for other groups within the Nigerian development space in order to leverage resources and mobilize the critical mass needed for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

7. As we mark the second anniversary of the SDGs, it has now become urgent to scale up implementation efforts for success. In a world confronted with numerous challenges in all the spheres of human existence, peer learning, partnerships and adequate resource mobilization will be crucial for the localization and attainment of the SDGs.

Excellencies,

8. It is noteworthy to state that there is no effort too great to spare in the drive to attain the SDGs. Failure to achieve the SDGs has dire consequences for our generation and for those yet unborn. We are thus the generation at the threshold of history saddled with the responsibility of bringing about the change that will alter our development trajectory for the benefit of people and planet. I am convinced it can be done.

9. I thank you for your attention.

**Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire,**

**Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs.**