



WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

GEOFFREY ONYEAMA

HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AT

NIGERIA'S SIDE-EVENT

ON

***"LOCALIZING THE SDGs THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATIVE
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION"***

NEW YORK, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

The Deputy UN Secretary-General,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome you to this event, which Nigeria is hosting in furtherance of our commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. The theme of this event ***"Localizing the SDGs through Partnership and Innovative Resource Mobilization"*** is apt given the fact that the achievement of the new global development agenda depends on the capacity of countries to adapt the global goals to their local realities, and, from that perspective, to identify significant and impactful actions to achieve them. In addition, localization of the SDGs implies open discussions and knowledge sharing among stakeholders, key local actors, and organizations with deep capacity and expertise on sustainable development projects.

3. It is gratifying to note that sequel to the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, many countries including Nigeria began to 'walk the talk' through mainstreaming and integrating the global agenda into their national development policies. Doing that has advanced the core principles of SDGs namely inclusivity, equitability, dignity, prosperity, and environmental sustainability. It has also

underscored the imperativeness of our collective aspiration to finding enduring and sustainable solutions to current and emerging global challenges.

Excellencies

4. The presentations by the four states- Anambra, Benue, Kaduna and Kogi would showcase how the domestication of the global agenda has positively impacted on lives of the poor and vulnerable at the grassroots. I am aware that a more robust effort is being implemented at the national level as the present administration of His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari has designed an Economic Recovery and Growth Plan for 2017-2020 (ERGP) that aligns with the SDGs. The plan has been formulated as a medium-term strategy and plan to manage Nigeria's economic transition process from recession to the path of inclusive growth, sustainable development as well as prosperity. In addition, the government is building strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at the international level to support the implementation of the SDGs.

5. Given the fact that the implementation of the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels in Nigeria has galvanized the delivery of sustainable and incremental democratic dividends for the overall development of our country and its peoples, I am confident that this event would contribute to global discourse aimed at (i) Exchanging ideas on strategies for mobilizing both financial and non-financial resources for the implementation of the SDGs; (ii) Strengthening multi-stakeholders collaboration and partnership for the achievement the SDGs at the sub-national level; (iii)

Promoting local appropriation of the Agenda and the adoption of the SDGs in government and in the community; and Building policy coherence at different levels of policy-making, with regards to the SDGs

6. May I at this juncture encourage all of you, to draw inspiration from the determination and commitment of Nigeria and in particular the four states here present to “leave no one behind” in the implementation of the SDGs. I hope that the outcome of this event would be consequential in the overall success of the implementation of the SDGs.

7. I thank you