

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROF. ELI JIDERE BALA, DIRECTOR
GENERAL/CEO, ENERGY COMMISSION OF NIGERIA (ECN) AT
THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY SUMMIT,
AT FRASER SUITES, CENTRAL AREA, ABUJA
5TH – 6TH JULY 2022**

PROTOCOL

I welcome you all to the Opening Ceremony of this National Energy Summit, organized by the Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) in collaboration with the International Energy Charter (IEC) Secretariat and ECOWAS. I want to particularly welcome our collaborator, the Energy Charter Secretariat under the leadership of Mr. Guy Lentz. Mr. Lentz took over the mantle of leadership of the IEC from Dr. Urban Rusnak on 1st January 2022. Until his appointment at the IEC, he served as the Coordinator of the EU on International Energy Policies and a member of the European Energy Regulator's Administrative Board. He has over 30 years of international work experience in the energy sector. I also welcome the Chairman of this occasion, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Barrister Muhammed Hassan Abdullahi, who has graciously accepted to Chair this occasion on very short notice. I sincerely welcome the Chair, Senate Committee on Science, Technology, Distinguished Senator Uche Ekwunife and the Chair of House Committee on Science & Technology, Honourable Beni Lar. I also do specially welcome the Special Guest and Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Monilola Udoh. Thank you Ma, for taking good care of us under your Ministry.

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I crave your indulgence to go down the memory lane. Energy Commission of Nigeria is the Federal Government Agency charged with the responsibility for strategic planning and coordination of national policies in the field of energy in all its ramifications. In doing so, it amongst other

things, makes recommendation for the exploitation of new energy sources; monitors the performance of the energy sector in the execution of government policies on energy; as well as liaise with international organisations in the field of energy development. The International Energy Charter is a declaration of political intention aimed at strengthening energy cooperation between member States coordinated by the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium. It should be noted that while the IEC has no legal nor financial obligations, the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), however, has both legal and financial commitments.

Energy development, a multi-disciplinary process, drives socio-economic development and therefore the security and sustainability of energy supply is of essence to nations all over the world. Nigeria is no exception. Unfortunately, not all nations have material resources for final energy production. Consequently, international trade and cooperation in energy becomes imperative. Nigeria is, fortunately endowed with tradable energy materials of coal (27 billion tonnes), crude oil (37 billion barrels), natural gas (206 Tscf), Tar sands (31 billion barrels of oil equivalent), as well as non-tradable renewable energy resources of solar, wind, biomass, hydropower and ocean tides and waves along its 853 km coastline region. In December 2016, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, granted approval that Nigeria becomes a State party to the IEC, and that Energy Commission of Nigeria, be the National Focal Point. In the first quarter of 2017, Nigeria joined the Charter in an observer status to the ECT, in a ceremony held at the State House Banquet Hall, chaired by the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, ably represented by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice. The European Union Commission office in Abuja and Ambassador of Netherlands and other countries witnessed the occasion. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IEC Secretariat, then under the former Secretary General of IEC, Dr. Urban Rusnak and the ECN was signed on activities that will enable the

Commission achieve its mandate. Amongst the activities was the collaborative organisation of an annual National energy summit for five years to promote high level discussion towards addressing the challenges of energy security, economic development, environment and climate change simultaneously. May I at this juncture put on record our appreciation to Dr. Urban Rusnak for his encouragement and support during those early stages. We have since been on course, except for the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide in 2020. One of the outputs of our collaborative activities with the IEC is the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) reports for Nigeria. The EIRA reports bring out the Investment risks and opportunities in the Nigerian energy sector, and therefore assists to improve on our policies, institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks so as to better attract investments. The EIRA studies commenced in 2017 and Nigeria without hesitation joined the pioneer member states for the exercise. So far, reports for 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been submitted; while those for 2020 and 2021 will be presented today by His Excellency, the Secretary General of the IEC to the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation.

In order to transit from an observer status to the energy Charter Treaty (ECT) into a full signatory, three country study reports are imperative. There are:

- Report on Investment Climate and Exceptions to National treatment;
- Energy Efficiency Accession Report;
- Report on the Harmonization of Country Laws and Regulations with the Energy Charter Treaty.

We are happy to report that these reports for Nigeria have been drafted by ECN in collaboration with relevant MDAs and under the guidance of the IEC Secretariat. The reviewed draft reports will also be presented later at one of the plenary sessions.

During the Paris COP21 in 2015, Nigeria and other African Head of States and Government not only pledged intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to emissions reduction by 2030, but also agreed to add additional 10GW of electricity from renewable energy by 2020 and 300 GW by 2030 in an initiative referred to as the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI). This initiative was to be financially supported by bilateral development partners such as Canada, France, Germany, UK, Italy, USA, EU, Sweden and the Netherlands to the tune of \$10 billion, under the arrowhead of the African Development Bank (AfDB). In 2018 Mr. President directed that Energy Commission of Nigeria serves as Nigeria's focal point for this continental initiative.

Also the first National Energy Policy (NEP for Nigeria approved by Federal Executive Council in 2003 was reviewed and together with its National Energy Master Plan (NEMP) were all approved by the Federal Executive Council on 27th April 2022. The Energy Policy and Master Plan are founded on the objective of energy security using our endowed resources in an environmentally and climate friendly manner and driven by the private sector. These documents would also be formally unveiled to the public by the Chairman of this occasion, who was one of those who nurtured the draft documents to the Federal Executive Council, when then serving as the Honourable Minister (State), Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

May I at this junction state that this year's theme for the Energy Summit is **“Green Economy and Sustainable Energy Development in Nigeria: Investment Opportunities and Challenges”**. Green economy is the practice of sustainable development through the support of public and private investments to create infrastructure that fosters social and environmental sustainability. It is a low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy. This theme is chosen to capture the global desire for nations to transit from highly fossil based energy systems to low or no-carbon based energy systems such as renewables and

nuclear as well as energy efficiency best practices. This is to mitigate global warming not to exceed 2°C by 2030 in line with COP21 climate target and the concomitant disastrous climate change effects to humanity. Nigeria's enormous resources of fossil energy when traded internationally earns the country over 90% of its foreign exchange. Also, fossil energy, proxied by petroleum, contributes about 7% to GDP and about 50% to the Federation Account, and has been in a declining pattern over the years due to government's delicate diversification policy.

Secondly, the internal or domestic final energy supply system in Nigeria is predominantly fossil based, paradoxically inadequate and insecure, with almost all transportation systems, industrial processes and over 80% of electricity generation driven by fossil energy. The Nigerian economy, which is about \$440 billion, is therefore tied to unsustainable fossil energy. Will energy transition to renewable energy from the sun, hydropower, wind and biomass etc. as well as nuclear energy and energy efficiency support this economy with its potential to grow to \$6.4 Trillion by 2050 according to PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC)? What are the investment opportunities and challenges therein? The Nigerian Energy Calculator (NECAL) 2050, an energy and emissions planning tool, adapted by the Commission in collaboration with stakeholders since 2014 from the UK 2050 Calculator of the then Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) of UK, and now Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), through the British High Commission in Nigeria, provides us with an instrument for a robust public discourse on energy pathways with their emission consequences for sustainable development in Nigeria.

Finally, I want to thank the President and C-in-C of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, who is also the Chairman of Energy Commission of Nigeria; as well as the Supervising Minister for their support to the Commission, while representing Nigeria in its relationship with the

International Energy Charter and other international energy organisations. We believe that Nigeria and indeed other members of the ECOWAS will benefit from membership of the IEC and the ECT through enhanced investments to green other economies for the desired sustainable growth.

I once again welcome you all and look forward to your contributions. Thank you and God bless.

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Director General/CEO