

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Positions for the General Assembly Plenary Committee

I. Combating the International Energy Crisis through Renewable Energy Technologies

With the sixth largest reserve of crude oil and the ninth largest reserve of natural gas in the world, Nigeria recognizes the consequences of solely relying on non-renewable forms of energy. In recent years, although there has been research and development of renewable forms of energy, the limited resources of nonrenewable energy are still heavily relied upon. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), over 80% of the current energy demand is for nonrenewable sources, such as fossil fuel. If this number does not decrease, the world will quickly be depleted of such resources. Nigeria, like many other nations, has an abundance of the natural resources needed for producing renewable energy forms such as hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and biofuels. However, the mechanisms for harnessing these resources have not been sufficiently endorsed by the local and national governments. In order to combat the international energy crisis, Nigeria supports research to pursue the development of renewable energy technologies, as well as engage in technology sharing with other nations.

The Energy Commission of Nigeria has collaborated with the International Centre for Energy, Environment, and Development (ICEED) along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to produce its Renewable Energy Master Plan. This document outlines an initiative to decrease dependence on nonrenewable resources by over 17% by 2025, in exchange for the development of renewable sources.¹ One renewable resource, biofuel, is already being used in Nigeria. Currently, this renewable energy source is primarily imported from Brazil. However, Nigeria is planning to develop its own biofuel sector modeled closely after Brazil's. Using its own natural resources of cassava, sugar cane, and palm oil, Nigeria will be able to produce its own ethanol fuel and palm oil diesel. The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has also received a grant of 70,000 Euros from Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) to accomplish this goal.²

The Federal Republic of Nigeria recognizes that the transition from dependency on fossil fuels to renewable forms of energy is a difficult one, requiring many resources. All Member States are encouraged to develop regional strategies to promote its renewable energies sectors, collaborating with non-state organizations. Nigeria emphasizes the need for an organization, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to monitor developments in the research and use of renewable energy technologies to facilitate more collaboration and substantive developments in the shift to renewable energy.

II. The Eradication and Control of Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases pose a threat to national and international communities alike, but there is currently an overwhelming disparity between the least developed nations, with the highest disease rates, and developed nations, with the lowest. This problem results from lesser and least developed countries lack of medical resources to combat disease. According a World Health Organization (WHO) report from 2007, African countries have the highest reported number of diseases that are potentially threatening to the international community. At 288 cases, Africa had more than double the number of reported diseases as the next highest region on the list. As a member of the African community, Nigeria is heavily invested in the eradication of communicable diseases. The health and development of future generations depends upon it. Countries which are not as directly affected by high disease rates often do not recognize the implications of ignoring the issue, and therefore Nigeria urges that the eradication of communicable diseases remain a top priority on the international agenda, until a resolution to this issue is reached.

Nigeria has made progress in combating communicable diseases due to its partnership with the WHO and sponsorship of health events on the local and national level. For example, a recent resurgence of immunization in May 2008 led to free immunization for children under five and pregnant women in the Adamawa State. As part of extensive healthcare reforms, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) established a National Immunization Agency.

¹ International Centre for Energy, Environment and Development (ICEED). Energy Research Master Plan: Nigeria, <http://www.icednigeria.org/REMP%20Final%20Report.pdf>

² National Nigerian Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). News Page. <http://www.nnpcgroup.com/news/biofuel.htm>

Since the 1990s, this immunization program has experienced increased financial allocation from a number of UN agencies and other development partners.³ An emphasis on coordination and integration has resulted in positive impacts on disease eradication and control as evidenced by notable decreases in the number of polio and measles victims since 2005.⁴ Nigeria has also recently partnered with the European Union-Prime (EU-Prime) to increase the availability of immunizations in the areas with the greatest need.

International disease control must first begin by minimizing disease in nations with the greatest risk for endemic cases. Many states with high disease rates lack resources or infrastructure to control the spread of communicable disease. Recognizing this problem, Nigeria calls for increased transparency and information sharing in the event of disease outbreaks so local and international measures can be initiated to inhibit further infection. Nigeria encourages the formation of the International Disease Surveillance and Notification System (IDSN) which will monitor the effectiveness of immunizations, as well as utilize information-sharing vital to halting epidemics. The increased transparency provided by the IDSN regarding disease outbreak and prevalence would provide essential technology infrastructure to treat, prevent, and eradicate communicable diseases.

III. Examining the Impacts of Conflict on Sustainable Development

Both interstate wars and intrastate conflicts are detrimental to the process of sustainable development. Such tension inhibits the region's ability to both develop and prosper by increasing environmental degradation, which is inimical to sustainable development. Economically, conflict hinders the direction of resources to sustainable development infrastructure. Sustainable development, especially in lesser and least developed countries, relies on foreign aid and investment. As conflict is more common in underdeveloped and politically unstable states, it limits the potential of these nations to improve and expand sustainable infrastructure. The Federal Republic of Nigeria supports the end of interstate and intrastate conflict to promote and support sustainable development in least and lesser developed nations.

In previous years, Nigeria has been faced with regional conflict. These clashes in the Niger Delta are the cause, and result, of impoverished citizens. Nigeria recognizes that attacks on the oil from the Niger Delta are often carried out by unemployed youth who live in the region. Growing tired of poverty, underdevelopment, and the lack of job opportunities, conflict erupts to further inhibit development, contributing to the cyclical nature of poverty. In previous administrations, government mismanagement of the oil wealth in this region has often contributed to the dissatisfaction and violent outbursts among Nigerian people.⁵ However, the Yar'Adu Administration has taken measures to reduce the violence in the Niger Delta that has claimed successful businesses as its 'main casualty.'⁶ Most recently, Nigeria has implemented the Niger Delta Congress to institute better infrastructure to deal with and prevent conflict that inhibits positive growth. Since 2005, Nigeria has convened on a quarterly basis for the *Gulf of Guinea Energy Security Strategy* to address the issues causing the conflict in the Niger Delta. Additionally, Nigeria has implemented the Strategic Conflict Assessment (SCA) in collaboration with the World Bank to improve conflict strategies addressing and implementing development throughout the nation. These strategies include the development of youth, infrastructure, the maintenance of natural resources, and the strengthening of the community.

To confront the impact of conflict on sustainable development, the international community must reexamine and affirm measures in place to address environmental degradation. Resources, rather than being allocated simply for humanitarian aid or peace keeping measures, should be channeled to environmental and economic projects in order to promote sustainable development. The Federal Republic of Nigeria calls upon all Member States to eliminate the negative effects of conflict on sustainable development. This body should work alongside other UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental organizations to address conflict and sustainable development with expediency.

³ Johannesburg Summit. 2002 Nigeria:Country Profile <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/wssd/nigeria.pdf>

⁴ World Health Organization. Annual Nigeria Report http://www.who.int/countries/nga/reports/who_2007_annual_report.pdf

⁵ Human Rights Watch. The Emergence of Armed Groups in Rivers State http://hrw.org/backgrounder/africa/nigeria0205/2.htm#_Toc94616272

⁶ InterPress Service. Nigeria: Niger Delta Conflict Hurting Local Economy <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43849>