

DRAFT

**STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE NIGERIAN
DELEGATION, PROF ABUBAKAR SANI SAMBO, DIRECTOR-
GENERAL, ENERGY COMMISSION OF NIGERIA,
AT THE FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)
BONN, GERMANY, 26TH JANUARY, 2009**

Your Excellencies,

The Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, join the community of nations, to unequivocally express support for the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which has the main objective to foster and promote the large-scale adoption of renewable energy world-wide. In particular, IRENA is to:

- Improve regulatory frameworks for renewable energy through enhanced policy advice;
- Provide improved transfer of renewable energy technology;
- Enhance progress on skills and know-how for renewable energy;
- Enhance scientifically sound information basis through applied policy research; and
- Better financing of renewable energy.

Nigeria therefore associates with the vision, mission and objective of IRENA as enshrined in its statute. Nigeria, which is a major oil and gas producer and exporter, is also endowed with abundant renewable energy resources of solar, wind, hydropower and biomass. Our country

appreciates the role, and imperative, these renewable energy resources would play in sustainable national development. To this effect, a National Energy Policy that encourages the integration of renewable energy into the Country's energy supply mix, with the active participation of the private sector, was approved by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2003.

Also, renewable energy research centres have been established in the country with the mandate to conduct research into solar and other renewable energy sources. Varied research outputs have been developed by the Research Centres, and the outputs are being deployed as pilot projects all over the country.

Nigeria has ambitious plan on how to utilize its renewable energy resources. For instance, renewable energy is expected to contribute about 13%, 23% and 36% in meeting its total electricity demands of about 15000MW, 30000MW and 192000MW in the short, medium and long terms, respectively, and which correspond to 2010, 2015 and 2025.

Nigeria therefore expects to derive immense benefits, in its efforts to scale-up renewable energy utilization in the country for sustainable national development, from the activities of IRENA.

Prof Abubakar Sani Sambo,
Director-General, Energy Commission of Nigeria.