

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, MRS SADIYA UMAR FAROUQ, OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, ON 113th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE IOM FROM 29TH NOVEMBER - 2nd DECEMBER 2022

THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY, MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Council, Member States and delegations, ladies and gentlemen, good day.

Indeed, the interlinkages between climate change, food security, migration and displacement are felt across various communities, countries and regions around the world. The impact of human-induced as well as climate-induced hazards, signal severe consequences for livelihoods, food security, human life and national security.

Climate change-induced hydro-meteorological disasters have caused devastating humanitarian crises in Nigeria this year. There have been drought and desertification in States nearing the Lake Chad Basin which worsens livelihood activities and living conditions for the communities in the area that have farming and fishing as their major sources of income. Furthermore, coastal and flash floods in many parts of the country have resulted in the forced displacement of approximately **3 million people, over 600 deaths, damage to over 300,000 hectares of farmland, damage to public infrastructure and homes, and disruption of businesses and livelihoods, especially in agrarian, communities.** Consequently, crop cycles, have been affected by these climatic conditions and as a result, it affects the availability and affordability of food, leading to food insecurity in many communities across Nigeria.

With limited harvests and outputs, some farmers are forced to return to farming for subsistence rather than for trade and scaling up the agricultural value chain. Those affected include refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the poor, the elderly, persons living with disabilities, as well as women and children. These vulnerable groups are the most at risk of the climate-induced displacement and are directly impacted by climate change, despite the fact that they contribute the least to the phenomenon.

Our migratory patterns also include rural-to-urban migration where most people end up in illegal settlements and have limited access to social welfare services. Internal migration has also triggered social tensions, communal clashes, and farmer herdsmen conflicts. Finally, we see youth engaging in labor migration to Europe and other continents in search of better jobs. Many of them still use irregular channels which puts them at risk of sexual and labor exploitation as well as smuggling and human trafficking.

There are approximately 5 million internally displaced persons in Nigeria and over 300,000 Nigerian refugees in neighboring countries (Chad, Niger, and Cameroon), largely due to the impact of climate change and insecurity.

Chair, Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development is focusing on mainstreaming risk reduction and climate change adaptation in its policies, strategies and programs. Notably, the 2019 **Disaster Risk Management Policy** calls for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in all areas as well as resilience-building of at-risk communities to withstand disasters and curb falling into situations of protracted displacements. The Policy recognizes that reducing vulnerability to hazards requires a focus on root causes through hazards vulnerability assessment to foster prevention and mitigation of existing risks.

At an operational level, Ministry maintains a climate change desk in-house and also within its agency which focuses on collating data, implementing program plans, policies, and programs on Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change.

To address the effects of the unprecedented floods we have experienced this year, and to ensure affected communities build resilience before the next rainfall cycle; we are still distributing emergency food assistance to affected populations, issuing cash grants to vulnerable households and working with the **National Food Security Council** to ensure seedlings, fertilizers, equipment, and loans are available to farmers in time for dry season farming.

For new and existing IDPs, this interconnection between climate change, food insecurity, and displacement mean that displacement can be protracted and prolonged and leads to additional vulnerability. As humanitarian and protection needs increase, **the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)**, an operational agency under my Ministry, is focusing on livelihood empowerment and building resilience for climate shocks. This will ensure that durable solutions are implemented in a humane and orderly fashion and ensure they are sustainable thereby leaving no one behind.

Furthermore, The Ministry is supporting the Ministry of Environment in implementing the **National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change Policy**, which specifically calls for MDAs to employ adaptation to climate change as a means of ensuring that Nigeria meets its commitment under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to enhance the resilience of economic, social, and ecological systems in the country.

Nigeria is pleased with the outcomes of COP27, especially the historic and long-awaited approval of a Loss and Damage Fund to assist developing countries in responding to and recovering from climate change-related hazards and disasters. This will allow Nigeria, like many other nations, to leverage financing and partnerships to ensure the proper adaptation and resilience building of communities most at risk of disasters triggered by climate change.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and our agencies, we are exploring piloting a three-phased climate change adaptation project that will assess the vulnerabilities and capacity of communities; implement community-based adaptation projects, and finally streamline trained at-risk groups into larger social investment schemes for poverty alleviation. We, therefore, invite the IOM and other stakeholders to key into this.

Thank you for your attention.