

Signing of the International Energy Charter by Nigeria on 7 March 2017

Your Excellency, Mr Vice-President, Minister, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished representatives of the Energy Charter Secretariat,

The Netherlands has a special role as depository state of the International Energy Charter of 2015. On behalf of the Dutch Government, it is my privilege today to congratulate the Government of Nigeria on the occasion of the signing of the International Energy Charter. We are delighted to note this step of Nigeria in the Energy Charter Process.

Your Excellency, Mr Vice-President, Minister

Nigeria, one of the largest energy producers in Africa and a crucial economy in the West African region, recognizes the importance of energy security. The availability of efficient and reliable energy to Nigerian consumers is the key of the Nigerian government's energy policy.

Signing the International Energy Charter is a sign of the will of your government to further enhance its international energy relationships providing legal security to national and international investments and trade partners.

Your Excellency, Mr Vice-President, Minister

Modernization and global expansion are at the heart of the International Energy Charter. Many countries worked together on this declaration for almost two years, which was adopted

during the Ministerial Conference on the International Energy Charter in The Hague in May 2015. To my delight, it has been so far signed by 81 countries and international organisations. By signing the International Energy Charter Nigeria becomes observer to the Energy Charter Conference. Other countries, from Africa and elsewhere, will certainly pay attention to the important decision made today by Nigeria.

Your Excellency, Mr Vice-President, Minister

As you are probably aware, the International Energy Charter is a multilateral framework for energy cooperation and integration which serves as a policy foundation for global energy security, based on the principles of national sovereignty, open markets and sustainable development.

The Netherlands believes that the International Energy Charter will benefit Nigeria's economic relations and foster its growth and prosperity.

Since your country is now Observer to the Energy Charter Conference, we encourage the Government of Nigeria to play an active role in the Energy Charter Process.

Now, may I invite Nigeria to sign the International Energy Charter...

Thank you.

John C.M. Groffen
Ambassador
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
