



**NIGERIA JOINS INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER
(IECh)
SIGNING CEREMONY**

Chairman of Occasion

**His Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Date: Tuesday, 7th March 2017

Venue: State House Conference Centre (Old Banquet Hall), Presidential Villa, Abuja

National Anthem

<p>Arise, O compatriots, Nigeria's call obey To serve our fatherland With love and strength and faith The labour of our heroes past Shall never be in vain To serve with heart and might One nation bound in freedom, peace and unity.</p>	<p>Oh God of creation, direct our noble cause Guide our leader's right Help our youth the truth to know In love and honesty to grow And live in just and truth Great lofty heights attain To build a nation where peace and justice shall reign.</p>
--	--

Programme of Events

TIME	DETAILS OF PROGRAMME
08.00 - 09.30 am	Registration and Working Tea/Coffee
09.30 - 09.45 am	All to be Seated
09.45 - 10.00 am	Arrival of the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria H.E. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
10.00 - 10.05 am	National Anthem
10.05 - 10.10 am	Welcome Speech by Director General, Energy Commission of Nigeria, Engr. Professor Eli Jidere Bala
10.10 - 10.20 am	Overview of International Energy Charter by Secretary General, Energy Charter Secretariat Brussels, Dr. Urban Rusnak
10.20 - 10.25 am	Remarks by Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference 2017 by Representative of Turkmenistan
10.25 - 10.35 am	Special Remarks by Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu
10.35 - 11.00 am	Goodwill Messages (5 Minutes each) from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ President of ECOWAS Commission ❖ Representatives of Japan, European Union and China ❖ ECOWAS Countries and their Representatives/IECh Coordinator
11.00 - 11.30 am	Address by Government of Netherlands- the IEC Depository; Mr John Groffen Signing of Charter by Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu on behalf of Nigeria and; followed by ECOWAS Countries
11.30 - 11.40 am	Unveiling of Nigeria's Flagship Project : (National Annual Energy Summit - in collaboration with the Energy Charter Secretariat, Brussels) -DG- Energy Commission of Nigeria , Engr. Prof. Eli Jidere Bala -Response by SG- Energy Charter Secretariat , Dr. Urban Rusnak
11.40 - 12.00 noon	Address and Launching of Flagship Project by Chairman, H.E. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria,
12.00 pm	Close: National Anthem Group Photograph with H.E. the Vice President, followed by Lunch

International Energy Charter and Nigeria

The International Energy Charter is a declaration of political intention that aims at strengthening energy cooperation between signatory states and which does not bear any legally binding obligation or financial commitment, unlike the Energy Charter Treaty. While member governments enjoy enhanced global standing as attractive places for energy development, business entities in member states will benefit from attractive investment opportunities.

The Energy Charter process was initiated in 1991 with the Energy Charter declaration, commonly referred to as the European Energy Charter, which was a concise expression of principles underpinning international energy cooperation, based on a shared interest in secured energy supply and sustainable economic development. The European Energy Charter subsequently provided the foundations for the 1994 Energy Charter Treaty, a unique multilateral binding framework for energy cooperation in international law. Energy Charter members are committed to the promotion of energy security through more open and competitive energy markets, while at the same time respecting the principles of sustainable development and sovereignty over energy resources. Protection of foreign investments, non-discriminatory conditions for trade in energy materials, products and energy-related equipment and the guarantee of reliable cross-border energy transit, dispute resolution and the promotion of energy efficiency are the pillars holding up the Energy Charter global governance architecture.

In order to broaden the Charter, rather than just European as contained in 1991 declaration, a process of reform and modernization through negotiations was initiated in 2009. Since 2003, Nigeria became an observer by invitation to the Energy Charter Conference; and did participate in the 2014 negotiations in Brussels. Negotiations for a new political declaration culminated to the May 2015 International Energy Charter, which offered the opportunity to countries in the world to contribute to the modernized 1991 declaration. Observers by invitation were given opportunity to sign and get their Observer status consolidated.

However, Nigeria could not key-in at the May 2015 opportunity in The Hague, Netherland, nor in the December 2015 opportunity in Tbilisi, Georgia and the November 2016 opportunity in Tokyo, Japan because request for approval was then going through due process. It may be noted that the Energy Charter Conference had decided to abolish Observer-by-Invitation status by 31st December 2016.

Fortunately, in the last week of December 2016, the President and Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR duly considered and granted approval as follows:-

1. That Nigeria becomes a State Party to the International Energy Charter;
2. That the Charter be signed on behalf of Nigeria by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology; and
3. That the Energy Commission of Nigeria be the National Focal Point for the Charter.

The International Energy Charter Secretariat, headed by the Secretary General, Dr. Urban Rusnak and the depository Country, the Netherlands, have both agreed to come to Nigeria to administer the Signing Ceremony by Nigeria and any other ECOWAS member state ready to join. We are therefore here to get just that done during this ceremony.

Prof. E. J. Bala
Director General/CEO
Energy Commission of Nigeria