



Address By

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Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice

*At the Signing Ceremony of the International Energy Charter
(IEC) By Nigeria*

7th March, 2017

Protocol

Introduction

1. Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, permit me to welcome our visitors, the representative of the government of Netherlands which is the International Energy Charter depository country and the Secretary of the International Energy Charter Secretariat to Nigeria. I must also commend the Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu and the Director General of the Energy Commission of Nigeria for their focused leadership in this sector.

2. The government and people of Nigeria are excited about the opportunity that this ceremony presents to Nigeria and other Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS) to become State Parties to the International Energy Charter.

3. Your Excellency, As you are all aware, President Muhammadu Buhari, identified three key priorities for this government and they are the ***fight against corruption, improving the economy and enhancing security of lives and properties. These three key priorities are being implemented side-by side to ensure the effective implementation of government's overarching policy of reducing poverty and improving the opportunities available to every Nigerian.***

4. Nigeria considers today significant because it has taken thirteen years get to where we are today. The commitment of the President to improve the economy, provide a conducive environment for investors and create an open government system in compliance with international standards makes it imperative that the government must establish a sustainable path to energy.

5. Energy Security sits within the priority area on economic reform and sustainability goals of this government and therefore becoming a member of the International Energy Charter will assist Nigeria to achieve an open and competitive energy market.

6. We are aware that the Energy Charter provides a multilateral framework for energy cooperation under international law. The Energy Charter is designed to promote energy security, while respecting the principles of sustainability goals and sovereignty over energy resources,

7. As Nigeria struggles to acquire energy that is clean, sustainable and efficient, the government will seek to support the work of the International Energy Charter Secretariat. The first step in realizing this effort is what we are witnessing here today through the signing of the International Energy Charter. By signing the charter, Nigeria will join more than fifty-four other countries (including the European Union) that have signed the charter.

8. Nigeria stands to gain enormously from this Charter as it provides the opportunity to attract investment, ensure that clean energy is available to all Nigerians, increase the level of renewable energy that is available to the public and support the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

9. As part of this process, the President has also directed that all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies abide with the principles underlying the Energy Charter. One of these principles has already been adopted within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) that the President signed in July, 2016. The OGP provides an opportunity for citizens to engage with the government in promoting transparency, accountability and citizens' participation.

10. Your Excellency, I believe that the International Energy Charter is an important instrument for economic development.

11. I am happy to have the privilege to launch the first project under the Charter titled '*Annual Energy Summit*'. The Annual Energy Summit will provide the Energy Commission of Nigeria the opportunity to fully participate and collaborate with the International Energy Charter Secretariat as it seeks innovative energy technology, peer review mechanisms and the development of a dynamic energy plan and strategy for Nigeria.

12. I look forward to receiving progress report on the implementation of the Nigeria's Energy Plan.

I wish you all a fruitful deliberation.

Thank you.

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