SECURITY COUNCIL
OPEN ARRIA- FORMULA MEETING ON THE ROLE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS A THREAT MULTIPLIER FOR GLOBAL SECURITY
30 JUNE, 2015
STATEMENT BY NIGERIA

Mr. President,

I thank you for organizing this important debate and for providing the concept note that has guided our discussion. I also thank H.E. Mr. Anote Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Vice-Minister for Environment of Spain and other panelists, for their insightful briefings.

2. The phenomenal of climate change and its reverberations constitute a cause for concern in today’s world. Recent experiences of floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, or tsunamis have demonstrated that extreme weather events could result in deaths, cause civil disorder, and damage critical infrastructure in developed and developing countries. It could also contribute to humanitarian disasters as well as heightening the possibility of large scale refugee flows especially in developing countries.

Mr. President
3. Africa has become the most vulnerable region in the world to the impact of climate change. In Sub-Saharan Africa, extreme weather conditions have resulted in flooding, drought and desertification. These have led to lower agricultural yields and spread of diseases.

4. Indeed, research indicates that a 2°C warming above pre-industrial temperatures would result in permanent reductions in annual per capita consumption of four to five percent for Africa. Thus, increased climate variability has threatened the development gains of African countries. More specifically, Nigeria believes that the negative impact of climate change is one of the factors that has contributed to hampering Africa’s efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

5. At the national level, Nigeria believes that the effects of climate change could be responsible in part, to inflaming tensions, weakening governance and economic growth, and contributing to massive migration and emergence of terrorists. Without doubt, these negative effects have dire consequences on international peace and security.

6. Nigeria underscores the imperative for the global community to mobilize political momentum for strident, bold initiatives at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
(UNFCCC) scheduled to hold in Paris next December. Such initiatives should strengthen existing agreements on the critical issues of adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation, particularly as they apply to developing countries. The Paris Agreement to be adopted at the Conference should build on and confirm the mandate and principles of the Convention which include the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities.

7. We urge countries with comparative advantage to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and provide finance, technology and capacity-building support to developing countries. Nigeria emphasizes the need to scale up financing opportunities through the Global Environment Facility and urges that a special fund should be dedicated to address the challenges confronting the African continent.

8. We call on the international community to restructure the current global program of participating in the market-based system of Clean Development Mechanism within the Kyoto Protocol. The time is ripe for a more inclusive and integrated system. Indeed, the time is ripe for governments and international institutions to address the root causes of climate related migration and to promote positive governance of rural-
Urban and trans-boundary migration as well as take leadership on improving rural-urban food security.

10. We welcome the PGA’s High-Level meeting on climate change convened to sustain the momentum on the reduction of global greenhouse emissions.

11. I thank you