

STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF NIGERIA'S ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES (WATER CONVENTION)

The Government of Nigeria expresses appreciation to the Chairman and officials of the United Nations Economic Community for Europe (UNECE) for supporting and aiding Nigeria's quick ascension to the Water Convention.

2. I wish to also thank you for the opportunity given to us to present a Statement on the status of Nigeria's accession to the Meeting.

3. Nigeria has signified interest to accede to the Water Convention since 2017 with the visit of a former Permanent Secretary: Dr Musa Ibrahim to the last meeting of the Parties at Astana.

4. The country also participated in the 7th Global Workshop on Ecosystem Base Adaptations in Transboundary Basins held in Geneva, from 29 to 30 April, 2019 attended by another former Permanent Secretary: Mrs Comfort Ekaro.

5. Today happened to be the 60th anniversary of Nigeria independence, and it is a public holidays here in Nigeria.

6. Nigeria's readiness to accede was also affirmed by the Honourable Minister of Water Resources: Engineer Suleiman Adamu, during the Stockholm World Water Week in 2019. The Honourable Minister on return directed that the Ministry commence the process to Nigeria's accession to the Water Convention.

7. The following steps have been taken so far by Nigeria:

(i) A Ministerial Committee made up of representatives from the Ministry of Water Resources and her agencies was inaugurated on Thursday 27th February, 2020 by the Permanent Secretary;

(ii) Members of the Committee were given the leaflets and brochures on Water Convention to study and recommend whether Nigeria should accede or not.

(iii) All the Committee members were unanimous in agreement that Nigeria should accede to the Water Convention.

(iv) A letter nominating Focal Persons was sent to the UNECE office. The nominated officers are; Mrs. Alice Ojowu and Mr. E.O. Awe both directors in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources.

(v) Since their nomination, the Focal Points have participated in several virtual meetings of the Secretariat accordingly.

(vi) An official letter expressing Nigeria's interest in the Water Convention signed by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Secretary of the Convention through the

Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations has been despatched accordingly. The letter has also been acknowledged.

(vii) In line with the steps to the accession, a meeting will be convened as soon as possible to enable the discussion of the provisions of the Convention by the Technical and Legal Departments of the Ministry to assess its compliance with Nigeria's commitment/institutions. After this, a National Workshop shall be convened to bring all Stakeholders into the discussion.

(ix) We have received a firm commitments from the UNECE Secretariat and the EU Country Office to support Nigeria ascension and the process.

Thank you for your attention.