

TEXT OF A GOODWILL MESSAGE DELIVERED TO THE NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SUMMIT 2022, ON MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2022, STATE HOUSE, ABUJA, BY OMAR FAROUK IBRAHIM, SECRETARY GENERAL, AFRICAN PETROLEUM PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION, APPO.

1. Your Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President and Commander in Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria, represented by HE Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Excellency Ahmad Lawan, President of the Senate of the Federal Republic, Right Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ministers and Heads of APPO Member Countries' delegations, Honourable Ministers of the Federal Republic, Captains of the oil and gas industry, distinguished ladies and gentlemen.
2. In my goodwill message to the last edition of this Summit in 2021, I had traced the history of NIPS to the foresight of Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, then Minister of State for Petroleum Resources who on his return from the Off-shore Technology Conference in 2016, resolved that Africa must have its own version of the OTC. I had also commended his successor, HE Timipre Sylva for his decision to continue with some of the initiatives started by his predecessor, noting that one of the biggest challenges militating against Africa's development is policy discontinuity. I noted the thoroughness with which Minister Sylva reviewed all programmes he met on the ground, making changes where necessary and improving on them as he implemented them.
3. Today, as we celebrate the 5th edition of NIPS permit me to once again congratulate these two gentlemen for their contribution not only to the institutionalization of this laudable project, but also for setting an example for other leaders to follow, namely, to undertake an objective review of what one finds on the ground, further develop the good ones and discard what may not be worth the time, resource and energy put into it. I should also congratulate the organizers of NIPS, Brevity Anderson, for the successes they have been recording under what is unarguably a very difficult operating environment.
4. Excellencies, you would have noticed that I keep referring to today's event as NIPS, not NIES as the new official name is. The first reason is that I am used to NIPS and it sounds great to me. But a more important reason is that as a

representative of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization, APPO, our continent's inter-governmental body for oil and gas, I find in the abandonment of the name Petroleum for Energy as capitulating to the intimidation of the anti-fossil fuel lobby, those who are determined to give a dog a bad name in order to hang it.

5. Excellencies distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as African countries, especially those whose economies are highly dependent on oil and gas revenues, grapple with the energy transition, analysts are beginning to see three approaches to how African oil and gas producing countries can address the global energy transition. The first approach is to fall for the position of the anti-fossil fuel group, hook line and sinker. Countries that adopt this approach look to the anti-fossil fuel groups of the developed countries for support to make a quick transition from fossil fuels to renewables. Carrots, in the form of Climate Finance, transfer of technology, foreign direct investments etc are dangled before them. With these promises, these countries begin to churn out policies to relegate fossil fuels to the background, even when these countries have tens of billions of proven reserves of oil and hundreds of billions of gas off-shore and on-shore. They begin to want to distance themselves from fossil fuels, or at least oil, in the first instance. But once a country starts distancing its economy from one of its mainstays, namely, oil, it is a just matter of time, before that country will be forced to also distance its economy from gas. This approach believes that Africa's salvation lies with the developed world. It believes that Africa cannot make it without external support and guidance.
6. The second approach are the rejectionists. This group of countries comprises those that believe that energy transition is a conspiracy devised by the developed countries to stop the underdeveloped, but resource endowed countries, from making the major leap into industrial development. To these countries, energy is critical to socio-economic development and that even if the science of climate change is established beyond any reasonable doubt, they are not ready to abandon fossil fuels until they have reached a level of socio-economic development that will guarantee the basics of life for their population. These countries believe that with Africa contributing 2-4 per cent of global atmospheric emissions, there is no justification to call on Africa to abandon its most affordable and reliable energy source for some energy that

it has not tried and tested. This is more so, as this school of thought believes that Africa is on the verge of an industrial breakthrough. To this group, even though Africa has not been able to master the technology of the oil and gas industry, despite decades of operations, African can continue to produce and use fossil fuels without external support. To this group energy transition is a blessing in the sense that it shall compel Africa to develop the required technology to sustain production in the industry, develop a continent-wide energy market and also develop continental, regional and sub-regional energy infrastructure.

7. And the third approach or pragmatists are countries that fall between the first and second. These are a group of countries that agree that green house gas emissions are harmful to the atmosphere and that every effort should be made to reduce or end it. It also believes that with the developed world championing it, it is futile for any developing, poor and dependent country to go against it. But they also recognize that they cannot hurriedly abandon fossil fuels. They still believe that they need foreign markets for their fossil fuels, even when they know that if they aggressively pursue a policy of creating a continent wide market from the 1.3 billion people in Africa, nearly half of whom have no access to electricity and about three-quarters of whom have no access to any form of modern energy for domestic cooking and heating, what the whole of Africa is producing shall not be enough for the African market.
8. Of the three approaches, the last, the pragmatists, seem to be on the ascendancy in Africa today. And this has been attributed to the consumption pattern of the elites. The elites want to continue to get foreign markets for their oil and gas in their raw form in order to get the foreign exchange with which to continue importing luxurious goods and services. But for how long?
9. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Africa oil and gas producing countries cannot make much progress until we are able to undertake a critical evaluation of the dire situation we are going to face with the successful pursuit of the Paris and Glasgow Agreements on climate change. In this respect, I should like to announce that a major study commissioned by the APPO Council of Ministers, some members of who are here with us today, both in person and virtual, **The Future of the Oil and Gas Industry in Africa**

in the Light of the Energy Transition, has been completed and was submitted to the APPO Ministerial Council at its last Meeting in December last year. Given the critical importance of the recommendations of the study, the Ministerial Council approved that it be presented to the Summit of Heads of State of APPO Member Countries scheduled for sometime this year.

10. Before I conclude, I would like to make one observation, regarding the number and quality of the Summits, Conferences, Seminar, Exhibitions on oil and gas held every year in our Member Countries, each claiming to be the most prestigious energy event in the country or the continent. Having so many such conferences in one country when we were trying to encourage our people to join the industry was good. But times have changed. The event organizers can confirm that the competition for sponsorship, delegates attendance, etc is unwittingly affecting the quality of these events. It is time the industry thought of collaboration and cooperation to produce what can be truly national oil and gas events, while at the continental level, APPO, provides the umbrella for some of the best continental event managers to organize the continental Oil and Gas Summit. This we plan to do on a rotational basis among our Member Countries.
11. I would like to use this opportunity to once again, appreciate the leadership role of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who started the Africa Local Content Roundtable, which it graciously conceded to APPO to organize as a continental event to be held in rotation among APPO Member Countries.
12. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your kind attention.