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ON THE

**GENERAL DEBATE, WITH THE THEME: GETTING TO ZERO:
MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**AT THE 144TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLEMENTARY UNION
(IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS**

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GETTING TO ZERO: MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Global Climate change and its attendant effects have continued to be on the increase. The resultant negative impact is of great concern to all the stakeholders as well as policy makers. Despite the positive roles of government and other relevant stakeholders to curtail the rapid increase of global warming, climate change has continued to pose a great threat to agriculture, health as well as social and economic activities of the people. Little has been achieved and more need to be done. However, the Executive arm as well as the Legislature have continued to work audaciously to implement policies aimed at reducing the impact of climate change and global warming triggered by human activities.

To be credible, effective and legally enforceable, all international agreements and protocols on climate change are being transposed by the National Assembly into National legislation supported by appropriate legislation, budget allocation, and robust oversight. This puts the Parliament at the heart of the response to climate change.

The Federal Government of Nigeria, in 2015 carried out an extensive review of the hydrocarbon pollution restoration project in which gazette has been undertaken. There is also a project coordinating office in Port Harcourt. However, adequate funding of the project remains a huge obstacle to the success of the review.

The Government also in 2016, launched the implementation of the United Nations Environmental Programme Report on the clean-up of Ogoni Land and other impacted areas of the Niger Delta. This is in a bid to reduce the impact of environmental degradation and the consequent delirious impact on climate change. It is a programme that has a 25-30 years timeline to achieve the desired results.

It continued to sustain enlightenment of the masses on indiscriminate cutting down of trees (appropriate sanction for offenders), open

defecation, and indiscriminate discharge of refuse into water bodies. Citizens, especially women and children are encouraged to plant more trees instead of cutting them down

The parliament played a major role in the passage of the following Acts; Nigeria Climate Change Act 2021 and Petroleum Industry Act 2021. The main objective of the Climate Change Law is to provide an overarching legal framework for achieving Nigeria's long-term climate goals including a net-zero carbon emission target.

The Petroleum Industry Act 2021, (PIA) made provision to address the issues of environmental degradation and other related matters on petroleum exploration which increases the contamination of the land, air, and water bodies in the affected areas, it summaries as follows:

- License holders must set up a "Host Community Development Trust" to fund social and environmental projects in the communities in which facilities related to operations are located.
- Each license holder must make an annual contribution to the trust of an amount equal to 3% of its operating expenditure for the relevant operations from the previous year.
- The license holder must appoint a board of trustees (which does not necessarily include members of the host community) and a management committee (which must include one member of the host community) for each trust.
- Failure to comply with host community obligations under the PIA is a ground for license revocation. Existing host community projects must be transferred to the new PIA-established trusts. PIA-host community development trust obligations appear to be added to the existing community levies (such as the Niger Delta Development Levy).
- As the representative of the people, the National Assembly of Nigeria is infrastructure to facilitates the transition to a greener and cleaner energy (. i.e. e-parliament services, solar power generation, and procurement of less carbon emitting infrastructure i.e. Utility Vehicles, Computer, Servers, Network, Air Conditioners, etc.),