

ASSESSING NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: THE ROLE OF A CLIMATE HEGEMON IN AFRICA

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Abstract

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of this century. The threat of climate change is not only global, it is multidimensional, invisible, unpredictable, and also transcends national borders thus threatening the national securities of individual countries. National security issues are fast becoming a top priority of nations and will remain so for a long time because of its strategic nature. Fundamentally, climate change threatens to undermine governments' ability to ensure stability and progress. Nigeria's foreign policy is historically traced to the country's leadership and its response to the external environment since independence in October 1960. One of Nigeria's foreign policy objectives is the promotion of unity as well as the total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of the country and Africa. The purpose of this paper is therefore to assess Nigeria's leadership role as a climate hegemon in Africa, this would look at the contributions, the short comings, the prospects, and the future trajectories. This paper concludes that Nigeria's commitment and participation towards finding solution to the climate crisis will reposition Africa towards effective efforts to address the challenge of climate change. As a leading country in Africa, Nigeria can deploy necessary global and regional mechanism to ensure workable climate policies for Africa. This paper shall use the international relations theory of cooperation and integration. Finally, the paper makes recommendations that would enhance and strengthen Nigeria's role as a climate hegemon in Africa.

Key words: *Climate change, foreign policy, Africa.*

Introduction

Climate change represents one of the greatest threats of the 21st century. Many of the populations in developing countries are likely to experience the impacts of climate change more acutely, owing, in part, to higher vulnerabilities (Ellis & Pillay, 2017). This is to say that, in most situations, vulnerable countries lack adaptive capacity and financial resources to respond adequately to climate change impacts. Our ecosystems suffer biodiversity and habitat loss and human systems like health will be negatively impacted, for example, by the spread of disease vectors like mosquitoes. Climate change also challenges us to rethink our urban systems (including transport and buildings) and the way we do business (including green business opportunities). The impact of climate change might also result in conflict or force people to migrate (for example, from low-lying coastal areas (IPCC, 2013).

The last two decades witnessed remarkable transformations of the global socio-economic landscape. But global transformations are not limited to socio-economic space alone as reorganizations at the political arena are also underway with positive and negative ramifications.

These transformations are the upshot of several interconnected climate-related events. The rising spate of these climate related events are not just a one-off chance but are occurring at alarming frequency that they are now redefining the planet. This is changing relations not just between mankind but it is also reordering how we view and relate with non-human nature. The most devastating of these climate-related phenomena impacting on mankind today is climate change. Climate change has been adjudged the defining challenge of modern age (Sachs, 2014). A major factor blamed for this phenomenon is largely attributed to the gradual warming of the planet. Indeed, scientific evidence indicates there is global warming (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2001; 2007a; 2014; Sachs and Tubiana, 2014). As a result of this warming trend, the world is witnessing different existential threats of grievous dimensions (Ayoade, 2001; IPCC, 2013).

The implication for a developing country like Nigeria is enormous. Climate change will have severe impact on government's development goal thereby reordering priorities towards economic growth (Stern, 2006). This will require reduction of gases spewed from oil extraction and production (IPCC, 2007a). By this is

meant essentially that there will be decreasing revenues from oil imports which is the mainstay of Nigerian economy. It will further mean reducing biomass extraction and consumption which is the primary energy source of rural communities (Eleri, 2006). Finding an appropriate energy mix which will navigate the climate politics at international arena while mitigating climate change should be the ultimate goal. How to make sure that such policy does not stifle the country's economic growth potential is central to all policies formulated on abatement of the scourge.

According to the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) 2013, Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change. Most of Africa will see less precipitation with only the east central region seeing an increase. The report further notes that by 2050, an increase of 5 to 8% of arid and semi-arid land is projected under a range of scenarios. Already by 2020, between 75 million people will be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change. This is bound to have a drastic impact on agricultural production in Africa which relies largely on rainfall. Agricultural production, including access to food is projected to be severely affected in both direct and indirect ways throughout the next century. In some countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by 50% (IPCC, 2013). Increase of mean temperature, changes in rain patterns, increased variability both in temperature and rain patterns, changes in water availability, the frequency and intensity of 'extreme events', sea-level rise and salinization as well as perturbations in ecosystems, all will have a profound impacts on agriculture, forestry and fisheries (FAO, 2013).

Foreign policies are strategies used by governments to guide their relations in the international arena. Foreign policies spell out the objectives state leaders have decided to pursue in a given relationship or situation and means by which they intend to pursue those objectives (Goldstein, 1999:147).

Foreign policies are very important to states, and are understood to mean actions of states towards other states. This is usually done through the diplomats appointed and given instructions for their negotiations (Spanier and Wendzel, 1996:271). Some political scientists have tried to interpret particular states' foreign policies in terms of each one's political culture and history. Also, most studies of foreign policy have not focused on the comparison of policies of different states; they have instead concentrated on understanding in a more general way the kinds of processes used in various states to reach and implement foreign policies (Goldstein, 1999:148 -149).

Generally, it is right for us to infer that the definition of foreign policy of any country is determined by a number of factors depending mostly on what a country hopes to achieve and the means through which it set out to achieve such objectives. This is to say that the environment determines the foreign policies of African states. As countries develop and implement their foreign policy, they go through certain procedures. These procedures are called "the foreign policy process."⁷ Not all countries follow identical steps. Even so, most countries include goal setting, intelligence gathering, reporting and interpreting, option formulation, planning and programming, decision-making, policy articulation, policy implementation, policy monitoring, policy appraisal, policy modification, and memory storage and recall as steps in their foreign policy process (Papp, 1997:136). Much of the foundation of what we know as Nigeria's foreign policy since independence in 1960 is directly owed to the vision of Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tarawa Balewa. Nigeria's first Prime Minister and Head of Government, October 1960 to January, 1966. As the head of the self-government from the late 1950's he carefully articulated and enunciated the fundamental principles that would underpin the country's external relations after independence, and established the basis on which Nigeria would relate with all countries (Fawole, 2003:38).

We shall be discussing in this paper the major determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy and indeed Nigeria's leadership role in Africa. This will showcase how Nigeria influences and interacts with her immediate neighbours on the African continent as well as her efforts towards building a peaceful coexistence and development in the light of her position as the giant of Africa, this will help in assessing what role she can play as a climate hegemon on the continent.

Assessing Nigeria's Foreign Policy

The role of a climate hegemon in Africa attempts to assess Nigeria's foreign policy and climate change in relation to the problem of climate change as a major threat to countries of Africa, as developing countries they are more likely to experience the impacts of climate change more acutely owing to higher vulnerabilities

as they lack adaptive capacity and financial resources to respond adequately to the climate crisis. The paper explained that Nigeria's foreign policy since independence has carefully articulated and enunciated the fundamental principles that would benefit her immediate neighbors on the African continent.

Theoretical Framework

From the beginning, the focus of international relations theory has been on the study of the causes of conflict and the conditions for co-operation. States which are the principal actors of the international system themselves, display patterns of internal conflict and cooperation. Cooperation may occur as a result of adjustments in behaviour by actors in response, to, or in anticipation of the preference of other actors. Cooperation can be negotiated in a bargaining process that is explicit or tacit. Cooperation may be the result of a relationship between a stronger party and a weaker party (Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Jr., 1996:418).

Cooperation has been defined as a set of relationship that are not based on coercion or compellence and that are legitimized, as in an international organization such as the United Nations, European Union or Africa Union. State actors develop cooperative relationship within international organizations and within international regimes, defined as agreed rules, regulations, norms and decision making procedures, within which states seek to resolve issues, and around which actors' expectations converge (Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Jr., 1996:418- 419).

Integration on the other hand has been defined as a process leading to a form of political community. Ernst Haas defines integration as a process whereby political actors in several distinct national settings are persuaded to shift their loyalties, expectations, political activities toward a new center, whose institutions possess or demand jurisdiction over the pre-existing national states. Another integration theorist, Karl W. Deutsch referred to political integration as a process that may lead to a condition in which a group of people has attained within a territory, a sense of community and of institutions and practices strong enough to assure for a long time, dependable expectations of peaceful change among its population (Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Jr., 1996:420-421).

From the foregoing therefore, this paper agrees with these theorists because indeed, Nigeria's foreign policy has been conducted within the framework with which it was developed. Her basic principles clearly outline the fact that she has provided for a sense of community and has assured most African countries of a peaceful change, co-existence, respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of every African state. This, she has demonstrated through the use of Nigeria's abundant natural and human resources for the overall benefit of other African States as shall be outlined further in this paper.

The Nigerian Foreign Policy

The environment in which the foreign policies of the African states operate is in reality limited by their obvious economic and military weakness. Thus, the Nigerian foreign policy wouldn't have been the way it is if it had no military, and lacked financial capacity to do so. There are both domestic and external determinants of a country's foreign policy. For Nigeria, the domestic sources of her foreign policy decisions include: history and culture, the federal structure, military factor, the economy and most importantly, the leadership style, also called "Idiosyncratic factors."

Nigeria's foreign policy is historically traced to the country's leadership and its response to the external environment since independence in October, 1960. Thus, some of the factors which influenced Nigeria towards adopting an external policy have, amongst others, three main component parts, namely policy towards her immediate neighbours, general African policy and the policy of non-alignment. Some of the principles, which governed Nigeria's policy towards her immediate neighbours, include:

- (a) The promotion of unity as well as the total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of the country and Africa;
- (b) Respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of every African state; Non-interference in the internal affairs of other African countries;
- (c) The promotion of world peace based on the principles of freedom, mutual respect and equality of all persons of the world (Aluko, 1977; Lamido, 2000).

Nigerian governments from independence to date have tinkered with foreign policy objectives that could enable Nigeria and her people benefit from such relationships. We can say this with relative ease that from the time of Prime Minister, Sir, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa in 1960 to the second coming of Obasanjo

in 1999. At independence, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa said 'the peace of Africa is the peace of Nigeria' (Unya, 2016: 135). Nigerian foreign policy objectives have remained the same "with little emphasis on one aspect and playing down the others. Africa has remained the centerpiece of her foreign policy. Nigeria has a population of about 167 million people, and it is located in West Africa which houses the fifteen members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). She is greatly endowed with substantial quantities of oil, and is a member of OPEC and she seeks to influence and shape her regional and continental environment. Earlier, Nigeria was slow to assume the role that her power resources held out (Shell, 2014). In 1960, the Nigerian first Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa declared: *Our country is the largest single unit in Africa... we are not going to abdicate the position which God Almighty has placed us... The whole Black continent is looking up to this country to liberate it from thralldom (Chazan et.al, 1999:370).* The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1979) specified Nigeria's objectives at the external level as follows: 'The state shall promote African unity as well as the total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa, and all other forms of international cooperation conducive to the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect and friendship among all people and states (FRN, 1979). It must be emphasized that Nigeria has continued to sustain her stand till date. This is reflected in her commitment and participation in the implementation of Africa's Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Nigeria participates in AU capacity-building exercises for the military, police and civilian components of the African Stand-by Force (ASF), which is an integral part of APSA, Nigeria's National Defence College, Abuja is an AU Centre of excellence for training in PSOs at the strategy level. These exercises and training have contributed significantly to the pursuit of the AU objective of peace and security in Africa (Unya, 2016: 140). Nigeria also played pivotal role in the establishment of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) which was established on 22nd of May 1964 by the four countries that border Lake Chad: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. The republic of central Africa joined the organisation in 1996, Libya was admitted in 2008. Observer status is held by Sudan, Egypt, the Republic of Congo and The Democratic Republic of Congo. N'Djamena, capital of Chad hosts the Headquarters of the commission. The mandate of the commission is to sustainably and equitably manage the Lake Chad Basin, to preserve the ecosystems of the Lake Chad conventional Basin, to promote regional integration, peace and security across the basin (www.aljazeera.com/news.2015). To this end, the Nigerian President, Muhamadu Buhari in June 2015 joined other presidents to establish the multi-national joint task force (MNJTF) which is expected to fight the military group in North Eastern Nigeria and its border regions. Nigeria is to contribute 3250 of the MNJTFs 8700 troops whose force is based in Chad with a permanent Nigerian leader.

Also in 2013 Nigeria contributed the fifth largest peace keepers to the United Nations peace keeping operation, and between 2014-2015, Nigeria served a two-year term as a temporary member of the United Nations Security Council, and has also acceded to the United Nations in adjusting the border of Nigeria and Cameroon as a result of the International Court of Justice's Judgement on 10th October, 2002 which instructed Nigeria to transfer possession of the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon (www.aljazeera.com/news.2015).

Nigeria worked for the creation of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) which was originally conceived as a regional integration scheme to promote economic development. The country also signified a rebirth of the practices of functional cooperation, it grew now to emerge as the biggest regional integration scheme with a broadened vision redefined, and its mandate and roles to address new realities and developments. This helped redefine West Africa geo-political space. At the same time, the Federal Government was confronted with serious domestic problems of unity, stability and economic growth, Nigeria also wanted peace and order in Africa through the principles of equality of all states, and respect for African states. All these were done to avoid frightening her neighbours into the arms of some powerful extra-African countries. Of course, Nigeria took this position based on the fact that, the presence of the large number of extra-African forces in the neighbouring countries would pose a direct threat to security and sovereignty of the continent, such a situation would lead to an arms race (Aluko, 1977). It must be mentioned that national security in its entire ramifications is a core value that Nigeria's foreign policy serves abroad. To this end, Nigeria's West Africa relationship is guided by policy of good neighbourliness. The relationship between Nigeria and other West African countries has always occupied a central place in

the consideration of Nigeria's national security and relations.

Nigeria's policy of "no compromise with apartheid" caused it to take a decisive stand to achieve its objectives of total eradication of racism and colonialism in Africa. Nigeria orchestrated a systematic isolation of apartheid South Africa from the early 1970s especially from global sporting events. Nigeria led the Africa boycott campaigns against South Africa participation in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, and the massive boycott of the 1976 Montreal Olympics, the 1975 Davis Cup Tennis Competition and the 1976 World Amateur Squash Championships, the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in 1986, the nationalization of the British Petroleum in 1979. These were aimed at forcing Britain in decolonizing Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa, and these were all achieved leading to the final democratization of South Africa, and the election of Nelson Mandela as President ending the white minority rule in 1994 (Akinterinwa,1999:108).

The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU) are two related regional initiatives deep rooted in the philosophy of self-reliance. These developments made regional approach to the resolution of African conflicts an imperative. Added to this is the growing awareness in Africa that the pursuit of economic development by regional integration schemes is only possible under a peaceful atmosphere. These logics were applied to the roles played by the ECOWAS in conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Togo, and Mali. Eventually, this development no doubt affected the perceptions of the ECOWAS member-states that identified these crises as threat to peace and economic well-being of the sub-region. ECOWAS/ ECOMOG has recorded appreciable success in West Africa and has done considerably very well in 2002. Findings based principally on the Anglo-German agreement that sovereignty over Bakassi did indeed rest with Cameroun. It instructed Nigeria to transfer possession of the Peninsula, but did not require the inhabitants to move or to change their nationality. Cameroun was thus given a substantial Nigerian population and was required to protect their rights, infrastructure and welfare (Thisday, 2008:9).

The President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo and that of Cameroun, Paul Biya at a meeting brokered in Geneva by the then Secretary General of UN, Mr. Kofi Annan, agreed to identify a number of confidence building measures which would pave the way in resolving many of the issues which are subject of the ICJ ruling. To finally seal off the deal and fate of the indigenes of Bakassi, Obasanjo on 12, June, 2006 at Green Tree, New York signed an agreement with his Cameroonian counterpart, Paul Biya on the implementation of the judgment. The agreement read in part that "Nigeria recognizes the sovereignty of Cameroun over the Bakassi Peninsula in accordance with the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10th October, 2002 in a matter of land and maritime boundary between Nigeria and Cameroun" (Guardiannewsngr, 2008:2;Thisday, 2008:6).

Similarly, Nigeria has been the main provider of military and other resources for ECOWAS Peace operation to the tune of US\$8 billion in its various missions in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea -Bissau, Liberia, Mali, and Sierra Leone. During the peak of the Liberian and Sierra Leonean Civil wars in the 1990s, Nigeria provided over 70% of ECOMOG's military and civilian personnel, as well as logistical support (<https://en.wikipedia.org> 2016). Also, a number of West African countries acting as the standing mediation committee of the Economic Community of West Africa States [ECOWAS], decided to send troops to separate the combatants in the Liberian crisis. The troops went under the name: The ECOWAS Cease Fire Monitoring Group of ECOMOG. The ECOMOG initiative and the attendant crisis which it provoked brought into sharp focus the extent to which the Nigerian government asserted its presence and importance the sub-region, and this was also indicative of the fact that an important development was taking place in intra-Africa relations, and Nigeria was at the centre of this development (Akinrinade, 1992:47 -48).

The climate debacle and need for a hegemon in Africa

The climate crisis has faced humanity with devastating consequences especially developing countries of Africa which has contributed little to the catastrophe yet will be hardest hit by its consequences. To this end, more and more developing countries are seeking for comprehensive approaches to manage the

external and domestic resources that are necessary to address climate change. It has become extremely necessary to combat the climate change challenge which threatens the health, homes, and livelihood of millions of people around the globe, with the poorest and most vulnerable hit the hardest. Developing countries especially in Africa are particularly vulnerable to climate change and are already suffering from severe flooding, longer droughts, crop damage and biodiversity loss (Masullo, Larson, Brown & Dougherty-Choux, 2015; p.3). Addressing the causes and impacts of climate change and planning for a resilient future, while maintaining development priorities, countries require additional cooperation at regional level which is vitally important to solving the global climate change challenge. Nigeria look good to pioneering in helping to focus attention on opportunities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change in the context of development needs in Africa (World Bank, 2015; Nakhoda & Norman, 2015; p.2).

Africa's vulnerability to climate change is disproportionate in many ways. Padgham, 2015; p. 39 opines that the vast majority of climate vulnerability from Africa focus on rural systems, which is a reflection of the region's agrarian base and the high sensitivity of rain-fed agriculture that predominates across Africa's dry lands. The critical issues framing vulnerability within the rural space include environmental degradation of agro-ecosystems, large-scale land-use change with mostly negative implications for socio-ecological sustainability and other productive resources as well as the rising toll of conflict in rural areas. Also, women in rural Africa contend with unique vulnerabilities stemming from historical social inequalities, ascribed social and economic roles that manifest in unequal access to resources and decision-making processes, reduced access to information, ineffective property rights and reduced mobility...specific areas of inequality in relation to adaptation include women's limited access to and control of land, women's high household burdens that include responsibility for water and fuel wood collection, high levels of responsibility for agricultural production, greater economic insecurity and rates of poverty relative to men, and lack of access to formal education (Padgham, 2015; p.65). This is to say that Africa's vulnerability to climate change suggests an urgent need for a hegemonic approach, the centrality of this relates to how large-scale land and resource use changes influences the ability of farmers and livestock keepers to manage risks and vulnerabilities and avail themselves of opportunities.

Climate change is a threat to the core mission of the World Bank Group as weather extremes already affect millions of people, putting food and water security at risk, and threatening agricultural supply chains and many coastal cities, especially in Africa where countries suffer disproportionately from natural disasters, with almost half of disaster casualties occurring in low-income countries, and economic losses sometimes exceeding 10 percent of GDP (WBG, 2016; p.7). Historically, very little adaptation has been directed toward the region. Between 2004 and 2011, \$328 Million has been approved for 75 adaptation projects and despite an increase in approved finance in absolute terms, however, Africa has received only a small proportion of new adaptation finance to date (Nakhoda, Caravani, Bird, & Schalatek, 2011; p.2).

The future of Africa's agriculture is threatened by adverse environmental outcomes; this includes the loss of biodiversity and eco-system services, depletion of top soil water pollution caused by poor nutrient management, hazardous chemicals release, disposal, emissions and waste. Whereas trade conducted on a business as usual largely exacerbates these trends (Okwonkwo & Uwazie, 2015; p.20). This is to say that the most effective and efficient way to increase agricultural output in Africa is to turn to sustainable production as this would not only preserve the natural environment but will also ensure sustainable consumption and guarantee the future of local farmers.

Currently, Africa's forests reserves are under severe threat of increasing illegal logging, a trend that implicates actions of government officials responsible for these forests, they have also contributed a clog in the issue of illegal trade. There is indeed an urgent need of sustainable trade in this area because this is also likely to increase transparency and ensure traceability in the forest sector through certificate schemes. This is to say clearly that all countries of the world whether poor or rich are exploring prospects for climate policies aimed at implementing measures to undertake climate change programmes and projects that promote clean environment, job creation and poverty reduction (Nakhoda & Norman, 2014), Africa cannot afford to be an exception as this is likely to lead towards improved efficiency and productivity of natural resource use, reduced pollutions, resource degradation and climate change, and then improved resilience of economic and environmental shocks. Thus, the purpose of the discourse will shift from the negative and politically

unattractive framing to something more positive whereby the environment will be protected to yield better result.

Africa has great potentials and also needs to pursue a climate-resilient and low-carbon development as doing otherwise would set her huge population in jeopardy, this is as climate change is altering the frequency, intensity, extent, duration and timing of some extreme weather and climate events (Caravani, 2015; p. 7). Nigeria is a political and economic giant of Africa, the largest country and the biggest oil exporter in Africa (Okwonkwo & Uwazie, 2015), it is the ninth largest gas reserves in the world and its energy policies and decisions will also be increasingly significant in the future of global system (Shell, 2014). Nigeria possesses the capacity to act as a climate hegemon in Africa having earlier exhibited same on other important economic, social, and cultural issues affecting other Africa countries. There is no doubt that Nigeria's giant position in Africa coupled with her foreign policy objective leaves her in the best position to act as one if the challenge of the climate change must be tackled headlong.

Conclusion

From the foregoing therefore, it is pertinent to conclude that Nigeria looks at Africa as the centre piece of her foreign policy and has often postulated that Africa cannot be understood without understanding Nigeria, and that if Africa is not free, Nigeria cannot be said to be free. This is important as has been enunciated in her relations with other African countries even where it clearly stood out. Nigeria recognized the need for good neighborly relations/ despite the fact that the balance of power in the sub-region is in Nigeria's favour, both economically and militarily. In spite of this leadership posture, Nigeria preferred to play a big brother role in Africa despite the weak character of African states. This leads to conclude that Africa, as an area has come to occupy an important place in Nigeria's foreign policy calculation. These actions and initiatives have contributed in no small way in building the needed peace and development in Africa.

It is evident that developing countries' low-carbon and climate-resilience growth is a central issue of concern for policymakers around the globe as evidence grows regarding the negative impacts of climate change on human health, economic activity, natural resources and physical infrastructure, has been attracting more attention, especially in Africa where countries are the most immediately vulnerable to these adverse impacts. Thus, there is every need to put in place a leadership structure to galvanize this process and to reposition the region towards making progress to securing a global agreement and policies that delivers emission reductions which are commensurate with the scale of the climate challenge.

Recommendations

The following recommendations emerged from the paper:

The paper has further advanced how Nigeria has in the past acted the big brother role using her enormous resources towards helping to tackle the climate crisis in Africa headlong. The paper has further recommended that there is greater need for a country as Nigeria to act as a climate hegemon if the climate crisis would be tackled.

Africa with a hegemonic leadership will need to develop methodologies on what climate policies the continent will undertake and the need to be measured, reported and verified as it is an essential element to ensure transparency worldwide. Nigeria and Africa must design a definite Africa climate change policy which will energize all African policy makers to device urgent means of improving energy availability and access. It will further help African governments to collectively deploy available resources to leverage necessary global and regional mechanism to ensure adequate energy to power their development agenda in Africa.

Nigeria needs to act, lead and be supported by African countries so that she will provide the needed leadership as exhibited in other African issues. There is no doubt that Africa needs a hegemonic leader on climate change, one that will provide the necessary capacity and drive the process forward if Africa must be part of the global process of tackling the climate challenge.

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