

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING, SENATOR UDOMA UDO UDOMA, AT THE BREAKFAST MEETING ORGANISED FOR THE DONORS THAT PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT TO THE LAKECHAD REGION DURING THE OSLO II CONFERENCE HELD IN BERLIN FROM SEPTEMBER3-4, 2018**

**Protocols:**

It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning to welcome you all to this breakfast meeting. This breakfast meeting was arranged so that we can express our appreciation to all of you who participated in the 2018 High Level Conference in Berlin, Germany [Oslo II], particularly the Donors who pledged their support. This was a very successful conference which resulted in the receipt of pledges of very helpful and significant sums of money for humanitarian and development assistance in the Lake Chad Region. I thank all of you for your continuing support.

2. In particular, I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Norway and Germany as well as the UNDP under the leadership of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon, who co-hosted the High Level Conference on Lake Chad Region in Berlin in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria. You will recall that the Conference was held over two days - the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018.

3. This 2018 Conference was a follow-up to the first Oslo Conference held in Norway in February 2017. It will be recalled that this first conference was the outcome of growing concern for the humanitarian and other challenges being experienced in the North East of Nigeria and, indeed, the whole of the Lake Chad region, caused by the insurgency in the area. The scale of the problem is such that the countries of the Lake Chad region will need some external assistance to fully address. It is for this reason that, working together with the neighbouring States, Nigeria has found it necessary to mobilise international awareness as to the humanitarian challenges currently being experienced in the North East Nigeria and the Lake Chad region and the need to scale up support in order to be able to effectively address these humanitarian challenges. This was the background to the first Oslo Conference in 2017.

4. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to underscore the fact that the two High Level Conferences have been very successful. It will be recalled that at Oslo 1 pledges of USD\$672 Million were received as financial support for 2017. Oslo II, which was held in Berlin, Germany, in September 2018, had in attendance 17 States, including the four Member States of the Lake Chad Region, the European Commission, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the UN Peace-building Fund, the African Development Bank and the World Bank. It was even more successful

as pledges totaling US\$ 2.17 billion were received for activities in 2018 and beyond for the funding of humanitarian and peace-building/development activities in the region. On behalf of the Government of Nigeria I wish to state our deep appreciation for the pledges and commitments from all the donors. We intend to follow up to encourage donors to redeem their pledges as soon as possible so that the funds can be made available for addressing the problems in the North East.

5. I want to re-iterate that we are determined, as an Administration, to provide durable solutions to the insurgency in the Northeast. This was why we launched the Buhari Plan in 2016 as the framework for engagement in that region of Nigeria. This framework resulted in the setting up of the Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (PCNI) to coordinate the response in the region; the establishment of Operation Safe Corridor to provide rehabilitation and reintegration support to low-risk Boko Haram-associated persons, and, more recently, the creation of the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to tackle the root causes of the crisis.

6. As you all know President Mohammadu Buhari is committed to ending the Boko Haram crisis in the Northeast. We have been working in active collaboration with the Governments of the neighboring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroon in order to achieve this. You will recall that in February 2018, Heads of States from the sub-region converged at Abuja for the

International Conference on Lake Chad to explore regional solutions that would address the diminishing water levels of Lake Chad. The conference resulted in the endorsement of an inter-basin water transfer to recharge the Lake, which would return the region to its, hitherto, buoyant economic activities and thereby address one of the root causes of the crisis. Taken together, these concerted efforts demonstrate strong political will in the four countries to address the Lake Chad crisis effectively.

7. Your Excellencies, Distinguished participants, I wish to call on all our partners and donors to strengthen collaboration with the government by directing efforts at leveraging and strengthening the capacity of local actors and systems to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.

8. Let me emphasize that the government of Nigeria is harmonizing all the various frameworks/plans for the Northeast into a costed Multi-Year Humanitarian Development Nexus Plan [2019-2021] for Nigeria. The Plan by the Government of Nigeria is being supported by UNDP and other donors and is expected to commence implementation in 2019. The 2019-2021 Plan will provide the basis for the harmonization and layering of humanitarian, development and peace support, which will also serve as Nigeria's Implementation Plan for the Northeast. It is hoped that the plan to deepen stabilization and resilience will ride on financial support through a Stabilization

Facility to be set up in collaboration with UNDP and all other interested donors and partners.

9. Once again,I herebyexpress our appreciation to all of you for your support, commitments and determination in collaborating with the Government to address the humanitarian challenges of the Northeast.

10. Thank you and have a good morning.