

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR. OGBONNAYA ONU AS THE SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE 2ND CONFERENCE ON NANOTECHNOLOGY, ORGANISED BY THE NANO GROUP OF LADOKE AKINTOLA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (LAUTECH) HELD AT THE HALL, LAUTECH OGBOMOSO, 23RD-25TH OCTOBER, 2018.

PROTOCOL

It is with delight and sense of fulfillment that I welcome you all to this 2nd Conference with the theme: **‘Nanotechnology for Sustainable Development: Prospects for Africa’** that is holding here at The Hall, LAUTECH Ogbomoso. Ogbomoso is a popular city in Oyo State, South-Western Nigeria, a very famous city which is known for its history of bravery.

2. Nanotechnology is basically an emerging technology that is revolutionizing the manufacturing technology/process by making most products lighter, smaller, stronger, cleaner, less expensive and very precise. Remarkable advancement is being made across the globe for the application and utilization of this knowledge in various fields such as Agriculture, Health, Medicine, Chemical Industries amongst others; that would enhance the quality of life of citizens. My Ministry endeavors to harness what this technology offers to fast-track our National development process.

3. Distinguished participants, this Conference with the theme- Nanotechnology for Sustainable Development: Prospects for Africa is apt

because it cares for the future and more because it provokes pathways to addressing inequality in development and its associated consequences for Africa and other developing countries. Application of Nanotechnology will enhance promoting wealth and jobs creation in the country and also improve the standard of living of the Citizenry.

4. As you are aware, economic success on the world stage and industrial leadership of developed countries and corporate bodies today are predicted upon and driven by this new technology amongst others. It is a matter of common knowledge that countries which have made improved giant strides in sustainable economic development owe such feat to investment in Nanotechnology. Nigeria with a population of about one hundred and ninety eight (198) million people is endowed with abundant natural resources and is suitably placed to maximize the benefits of this emerging technology.

5. Furthermore, our National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) encourages building institutional capacity and capabilities in new and emerging technology as well as collaborative Research and Development (R&D) activities among industries, academia and research institutions. Consequently the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology some years ago had also identified Nanotechnology as a viable STI tool in a Roadmap of technologies (i.e. ICT, Energy, Space Science, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology etc) which the country must embrace, if it want to be ready as a country to be reckoned with in the 21st century. Hence I inaugurated the National Steering Committee (NSC) on the

Nanotechnology Policy that will guide the application of Nanotechnology in the country.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to inform you also that the current Administration of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR recognizes and supported the role of Science, Technology and Innovation in the development of our country. Hence STI is the fulcrum on which Governments Economic Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) hinges.

7. In the same vein, the Presidential Executive Order 5 signed by Mr. President is aimed at Planning and Execution of Projects, Promotion of Nigerian Content in Contracts and Science, Engineering and Technology. I urge you all as participants at this Conference to avail yourself of the opportunities this Presidential Executive Order No. 5 offers to all Professional Bodies and individuals.

8. It is therefore my privilege to declare open this Conference on Nanotechnology for Sustainable Development: Prospects for Africa. I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

The Honourable Minister

Federal Ministry of Science and Technology