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Statement delivered

by

**H.E. HON. KHADIJA BUKAR ABBA-IBRAHIM,**  
Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

at the

High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region,  
3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, Berlin, Germany

**Check against delivery**

Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me express deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for her leadership of this important Conference on the Lake Chad Region. In addition, I want to commend the Government of Norway and the United Nations for their support towards the successful hosting of this Conference. Indeed, Nigeria is pleased to be associated with this important process.

2. The protracted humanitarian and development challenges in the Lake Chad region have placed enormous responsibilities on both the riparian states and the global community. Without doubt, there is a need for relevant stakeholders to scale up responses to the crisis, by bolstering and strengthening coordination towards ensuring a more synergized delivery of assistance.

3. At our national level, the US\$6.7 billion **Buhari Plan of Action** for the comprehensive Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the North Eastern Nigeria and the Lake Chad represents ambitious humanitarian cum development initiative that demonstrate Nigeria's unequivocal commitment to the socio-economic development of the affected areas.

4. It is a truism, that beyond the current challenges lie numerous prospects for harnessing the capacity of the people and natural endowment of the area, to facilitate integrated regional socio-economic development. It is on this premise that I am confident that the outcome of this Conference will build substantially on the successes achieved in Norway in 2017 and several other initiatives on the Lake Chad at the regional and global levels including the All Lake Chad Governors Forum held in Maiduguri, Borno-State, Nigeria in May, 2018.

5. Permit me to also seize this opportunity to urge on the need to develop a multi-year approach and planning strategy to comprehensively address the crisis in the Lake Chad. In this regard, we call for further mobilization of resources and enhanced demonstration of implicit commitment to initiatives that will urgently transform humanitarian needs to concrete sustainable developmental projects for the overall benefit of the region.

6. I will not end without emphasizing that the recharge of the Lake Chad Basin, capacity building, and restoration of livelihood, through facilitation of occupational opportunities, job creation, skill acquisition and others are central to lasting solution to the challenges of the region. To realize these would entail our collective commitment to broad range of actions, facilitated by strong international cooperation and partnership.

7. I thank you all for your attention.