KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

DR. IZIAQ ADEKUNLE SALAKO
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AT

INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGEN SUMMIT @ AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITYADO-EKITI (ABUAD)

2023

Protocol

Esteemed stakeholders,
Distinguished guests,

1. I am deeply honored to address you today at this special event to mark the International Hydrogen Summit at the 11th convocation ceremony of Afe Babalola University, a center of excellence that continues to contribute to Nigeria's development and the global knowledge economy. The founder of this great institution, Aare Afe Babalola CON, SAN is without any iota of doubt a reference point in patrotism, humanitarian services and community development. We the younger ones like to blame the older generation for the woes of our country, I think it is safe to say that with what Chief Afe Babalola has done in contributing to national development, he has been able to exonorate himself of any blame.

2. As we celebrate the achievements of this institution, a world class private university with a robust clean energy development plan and penetration, it is very symbolic that we also turn our focus to the significant strides Nigeria is making towards a cleaner, more sustainable energy future. **The 2020 Energy and Utilities Sustainability Master Plan for this institution which include the vision to become 100% sustainable energy user by 2030 can easily be described as ABUAD's Determined Contributions and I wish to use this opportunity to recommend such plan not only to our universities but to all corporate organisations operating in our country.**

2. The Federal Government, in alignment with Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP), recognizes that our nation stands at a critical juncture where we must

transition to cleaner energy sources in a just and equitable manner. With 45% of the population of Nigeria lacking access to the national electricity grid and more 50% of our households energy poor, green hydrogen, produced using renewable energy from abundant resources such as solar and wind, offers a significant opportunity for Nigeria to not only diversify its energy supply but also lead in the global decarbonization effort.

3. Green hydrogen is produced through the process of electrolysis powered by renewable energy, making it a clean, carbon-neutral fuel. Unlike traditional fossil fuels, green hydrogen emits no greenhouse gases, making it a cornerstone of our strategy to combat climate change and improve air quality.

4. Nigeria has vast renewable energy possibilities, particularly in solar power, with an average of 11 hours of sunlight daily. According to International Renewable Energy Agency, the concentrated solar power potential for Nigeria is approximately 88.7GW, 3.2 GW for wind, 24GW for large hydro and 3.5GW for small hydro. This gives us the capacity to produce green hydrogen on a large scale, both for domestic use and export. Furthermore, we are not embarking on this journey alone; Nigeria is a member of the Green Hydrogen Alliance a coalition of countries committed to developing green hydrogen technologies and accelerating their adoption globally.

5. This membership provides Nigeria with access to cutting-edge research, technological advancements, and investment opportunities, enabling us to collaborate on global best practices and position ourselves as a leader in the hydrogen economy. As a member of this alliance, Nigeria is focused on fostering partnerships that drive innovation in green hydrogen production, infrastructure development, and the creation of hydrogen valleys across the nation.

6. In collaboration with international partners like the German government, the German-Nigerian Hydrogen Office has conducted several pivotal studies. These studies assess the potential for green hydrogen production in Nigeria and explore its application in key sectors such as transportation, industry, and power generation. They also highlight the importance of establishing hydrogen valleys; regions where hydrogen technologies are clustered to create a thriving green hydrogen economy, paving the Way for a Sustainable Energy Future: Nigeria's Roadmap to a Hydrogen Economy

7. Additionally, Nigeria's participation in projects like International Hydrogen Ramp-Up Program (H2Uppp), supported by the German government, has helped us identify strategic locations for green hydrogen production and assess the technology readiness, environmental impacts, and economic feasibility of hydrogen projects across the country.

8. The environmental benefits of green hydrogen cannot be overstated. As a clean energy source, it has the potential to reduce Nigeria's carbon emissions significantly, especially in sectors like power generation, transportation, and manufacturing. Moreover, by decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels, we also reduce harmful pollutants, thereby improving public health and environmental quality.

9. This green hydrogen initiative is aligned with our broader climate goals, particularly Nigeria's commitment under the Paris Agreement and our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to voluntarily cut emissions by 20% by 2030 compared to a bussiness as usual scenario. The development of green hydrogen will serve as a critical tool in achieving our long-term goal of net-zero emissions by 2060.

10. Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, the path forward is clear. Nigeria has the potential, resources, and international support to become a

global leader in green hydrogen production. The government of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in line with its priority agenda to unlock energy and natural resources for sustainable development will collaborate with all stakeholders and create the enabling environment to ensure that this clean energy source becomes a significant part of our energy mix, driving job creation, poverty eradication, economic growth and environmental health.

11. As we move forward, it is crucial that all stakeholders; government, private sector, academia, and civil society continue to work together to turn this vision into reality. Green hydrogen is not just an energy solution; it is a pathway to a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous future for all Nigerians. It offers a way to solve our perennial energy crisis while creating jobs and growing our economy.

12. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to our continued collaboration as we build a greener and more sustainable Nigeria.

13. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.