A BRIEF PRESENTATION AT THE SIDE EVENT OF UNITED NATION OF YOUTH NETWORK NIGERIA(UNOY) AND GLOBAL ALERT FOR DEFENE OF YOUTH AND THE LESS PRIVILEGE D (GADYLP) AT THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, SB44,AT WORLD CONFERENCE CENTRE,BONN,GERMANY,26th MAY 2016

**THEME:**

**UNOY NIGERIA YOUTH MARK 2015 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF**

**FORESTS (MARCH 21ST) AND CONTRIBUTE TO REDD+**

A PREAMBLE

Let me commend UNOY for organizing this side event and also thank them for extending the invitation to speak at this side event

B IMPORTANCE OF FOREST

Forests are one of world’s greatest treasures, critical to our climate and provides a livelihood to more than 1.6billion people living in or around them. Forests provide absolutely essential services to all – for our environment, social and economic well-being on this planet

Yet forests are under severe threat especially in developing countries. We have lost more than half of all tropical forests. If we refuse to halt this trend forest will have disappeared - with dare consequences for our climate world since deforestation is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas Emissions.

Therefore we have an urgent and shared responsibility to protect this forests for our climate and for its vital contribution to local livelihoods! We need to take immediate and targeted actions to stop Deforestation to promote its sustainable use. This is why many forest rich countries around the world are developing strategies to reconcile sustainable development with forest preservation and protection.

Hence, through a variety of initiatives we must support creating the conditions for sustainable forest and land use thereby strengthening the basis for reducing hunger and poverty by reducing deforestation.

REDD+: We believe that REDD+(Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation) will provide much needed incentives to complement existing efforts to protect forests and biodiversity. REDD+ offers much more than a reward for reduced emissions.

C WHY PROTECT FOREST?

BECAUSE

1. THEY ARE ESSENTIALS FOR THE WELL BEING AND SURVIVAL ON THIS PLANET
2. FOREST ARE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE ON INCOME AND ALSO GENERAL JOBS
3. MORE THAN 1.6BILLION PEOPLE DEPEND DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ON FOREST FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD
4. FOREST HAVE CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES – ESPECIALLY FOR THE INDEGENOUS PEOPLES
5. THEY ARE HOMES TO ABOUT 75% OF KNOWN ANIMALS AND PLANT SPECIES
6. SOURCE OF WEALTH: THE PROVIDE US WITH OXGYEN, FOOD, BUILDING MATERIALS, FUEL AND MEDICINE
7. FOREST ARE REGULATING CLIMATE AND WATER CYCLES, PREVENTING DROUGHTS AND FLOOING AND PROTECTING SOILS FROM EROSION
8. THE AMAZON FOREST PRODUCES ABOUT 20% OF THE EARTH OXYGEN
9. FOREST ARE BEEN DESTROYED AT ALARMING RATES, ESPECIALLY IN THE TROPICS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
10. ON AVERAGE ONE HECTART OF FOREST CAN STORE AROUND 75TONS OF CARBON WHICH TRANSLATES INTO ROUGHLY 275TONS OF CO2. THIS CORRESPONDS TO THE EMISSION LEVEL OF AROUND 150 CARS IN GERMANY PER YEAR
11. DESTRUCTION AND DEGRADATION OF FORESTS IS THE SECOND SOURCE OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMMISSIONS GLOBALLY.
12. OUR CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS SHOULD ALSO ENJOY THE FOREST.

D What is REDD+

(Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is an approach developed by International community to protect forests and their unique diversity. The logic of REDD+ is to reward government or local communities for reducing deforestation and achieving verifiable emission reduction. Reforestation and sustainable forest management form an important part of in contributing to an increase in forest biomass and a reduction of emissions. This is what the plus stands for

E OUR EXPIRIENCE

Our experience has been wonderful and most rewarding, marking International Day of Forest and World Environmental Days with workshops, advocacy, seminars

We also organize press conferences, seminars and road shows tagged climate change evangelism, moving round the nooks and cranes of our communities/country. Other activities include hold Town Hall meetings with community leaders and youths intervention community mobilization, Tree planting and establishment of climatic change club.

ALL aimed at promoting conservation, sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stock, in our strives to make human rights and life of dignity a reality for all peoples!

AYODELE AKELE,

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

LABOUR, HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTCENTRE, LHAHRDEV

 (an NGO in Observer Status with UNFCCC)

(an NGO in special consultative status with UN ECOSOC,since 2014)