DECLARATION OF MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 OF ARTICLE 30 OF THE CONVENTION

I am pleased to inform you that Nigeria signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 10 October 2013 and is now depositing its Instrument of Ratification with the United Nations.

2. In line with Article 30 section 4 of the Convention which states that, each State or regional economic integration organization is encouraged to transmit to the Secretariat at the time of its ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of the Convention information on its measures to implement the Convention, I wish to inform and convey to you measures that Nigeria has taken to implement the Convention as follows:

i. Designation of the Federal Ministry of Environment as the National Focal Point for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention in Nigeria and the establishment of a Minamata Convention on Mercury Desk in the Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health to coordinate all national activities related to the implementation of the Convention.

ii. Minamata Convention on Mercury Initial Assessment through which the underlisted measures to aid the implementation of the Convention have been undertaken:

a. Assessment of relevant national policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks;
b. Identification of mercury emission and release sources in Nigeria and inventory of mercury emissions and releases using the UNEP Toolkit Inventory Level 2;

c. Identification of populations at risk and gender dimensions;

d. Development of implementation plans and priorities for action towards implementation of the Convention;

e. Development of information note on the Convention to create awareness amongst national stakeholders on its provisions and;

f. Awareness raising and sensitization campaigns for targeted key sectors of the economy.

3. Furthermore, Nigeria is currently developing a National Action Plan on mercury use in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector to improve its capacity and capability for the management of mercury in the sector and necessary process is being put in motion for the amendment of regulatory frameworks to support the implementation of the Convention.

4. While assuring you of Nigeria’s commitment to the implementation of the Convention, please accept the assurances of Mr. President’s highest regards.

Ibrahim Usman Jibril
Honourable Minister of State for Environment