



Charting a Resilient Future: Climate Change as a Catalyst for Sustainable National Development
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**Welcome address by the L.O.C. Chair, 5th International Conference of the Faculty of
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Campus, Anambra State, Nigeria**

by

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It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to this noble conference on this very important issue of climate change in national development. This conference offers us another opportunity to discuss how we can chart a resilient future despite the challenges of climate change. The Theme of the conference is '**Charting A Resilient Future: Climate Change as A Catalyst for Sustainable National Development.**' The issue of resilience in the light of climate change is critical due to the observed effects of climate change on individuals, communities and their environments. Structures need to be put in place to manage stress and challenges as well as adapt and recover from the effects of climate change. Individuals, communities, systems and organisations should be able to absorb and withstand disasters, shocks and stresses. Furthermore, they should be able to adapt, respond and recover. It becomes therefore very important to examine resilience in several contexts. Environmental, community, organizational and personal resilience are important for navigating risks and achieving sustainability. Mitigating climate change to achieve a resilient future should involve strategies to reduce vulnerability and improve adaptive capacity of infrastructure, water management, ecosystem adaptation and vulnerable populations.

The subthemes of the conference have also been chosen to further examine practical multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary implications and applications. The COP29 conference held in 2024 in collaboration with United Nations further underscores efforts being made internationally to the global problems of climate change. Regional and national governments are also making consistent efforts. Nigeria has focused on strengthening climate action through its net-zero commitment by 2060 and developing a carbon market framework. The Faculty of Environmental Sciences in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, University (COOU) under the able leadership of our Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, the University Management and the dynamic Dean of Faculty, Professor Augustina U. Okonkwo is pleased to contribute to this global discuss through this August gathering. It is our expectation that the outcome of this conference will not only contribute to ongoing national policy framework but also to the global discussions on resilience of individuals and communities in urban and rural areas.

On behalf of the University and the Conference Planning Committee, I extend a warm welcome to this distinguished audience and wish you successful and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you all and welcome once again.