**Professional Summary of the Goodwill Message Delivered by Dr. Olagunju Idowu L.**  
**At the Capacity Building Workshop on Improving Groundwater Governance**  
**Held from April 9–10, 2025, Rockview Hotel Royale, Abuja**

Dr. Olagunju Idowu L., in his goodwill address, emphasized the critical importance of strengthening groundwater governance to achieve sustainable water security for human settlements across Nigeria. The workshop, organized as a strategic initiative, underscores the need for effective collective action and policy frameworks that promote the protection, responsible use, and sustainability of groundwater and aquifer systems.

**Key Highlights and Major Points:**

1. **Groundwater Governance:**  
   Groundwater is a vital yet often invisible resource, essential for sustaining ecosystems, agriculture, and human settlements. Effective governance entails coordinated action to control, protect, and sustainably utilize groundwater, particularly in vulnerable communities.
2. **Socioeconomic and Ecological Relevance:**  
   Groundwater provides reliable local water, especially during droughts, supports ecosystems, and enhances microclimates. It plays a pivotal role in food and water security and is indispensable to both rural areas and urban slums.
3. **Strategic Resource Contribution:**
   * Groundwater supplies nearly half of the world’s drinking water.
   * 40% of water used in irrigated agriculture originates from groundwater.
   * One-third of industrial water needs are met through groundwater sources.
4. **Policy and Framework Needs:**  
   To optimize its benefits, groundwater management must be underpinned by strong policy frameworks and guided practices that encourage sustainable usage and prevent aquifer degradation.
5. **Climate Change and Future Resilience:**  
   In the face of worsening climate conditions, groundwater can act as a catalyst for economic growth, social development, and climate resilience—if it is developed and managed sustainably.

**Call to Action:**  
Dr. Idowu urged participants and stakeholders to remain committed to enhancing groundwater governance efforts, as this is pivotal to achieving long-term water security and national development goals.