

11 December 2012

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**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE
AT THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION HELD FROM 10-14
DECEMBER, 2012, IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation I would like to congratulate you on your election as chair and for the leadership you are providing for this Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention. The Nigerian delegation would like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, as well as all States Parties of its full cooperation with a view to achieving a successful outcome. As other delegations have done before us, we would like to commend the leadership and staff of the ISU for the good job they are doing for the Convention. Let me also associate my delegation with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non Allied Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman

The outcome of the 7th Review Conference provided a reaffirmation of our commitment towards the realization of the goals of the Convention, which is a confirmation of our common resolve to rid the world of all weapons of mass destruction. However, the imperative of realizing the goals of the BWC lies on our collective desire to uphold the provisions of the BWC through adoption of confidence building measures considered important in meeting the challenges of evolving developments in science and technology. It is a fact that new developments in science and technology have brought along new challenges, especially the commitment towards safeguarding such

inventions purely for peaceful uses. This is particularly the case for those that could be developed into weapons.

Another area of major concern has to do with the fulfillment of obligations under Article X of the Convention. Nigeria considers the issue of international cooperation under Article X as very essential in realizing the goals of the BWC. It is pertinent to note that the fulfillment of obligations under Article X remain an important factor of States Parties cooperation in peaceful application of biological activities. There is no doubt that exchanges among states contribute to the building of capacity, and we welcome that as long as such exchanges are purely for peaceful purposes. Therefore encouraging transfer of biological materials, equipment, scientific and other technical information should not be hindered, as long as they are done in a transparent manner.

One other area that elicits attention is how to deal with developments in life sciences and other new inventions in science and technology, some of which have implications for the BWC. There is a need not only to look at the negative implications but also to give equal consideration to such developments that are meant to benefit peaceful uses. We are conscious of the possible dangers inherent in some reagents falling into wrong use. However, sharing of information on new developments remains significant in helping to enhance the capacity of a number of countries, especially developing countries.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria considers the implementation of the provisions of the BWC by States Parties as very crucial in order to avert the risk of weapons grade materials falling into wrong hands. At present Nigeria is putting in place legislation that would prohibit the production and application of biological products for any purpose other than that which would be peaceful and uplift the quality of life of its citizens. It is our belief that early adoption of measures by States Parties for full scale application of the BWC would help to foster confidence, including the sustenance of the integrity of the BWC as the only international legal instrument for the prohibition of the use of biological weapons.

I thank you.

