

STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS:  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS CLUSTER

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**Mr. Chairman,**

First Committee

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The Delegation of Nigeria aligns itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

2. Today, the dangers and effects of uncontrolled access to conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, are witnessed all around us. From Africa to the Middle East, across Europe to the Americas and Asia, the carnage has become phenomenal and unprecedented, particularly the immense bloodshed foisted on innocent populations by terrorists and other criminal elements.

3. A sizeable number of the global population, including in my country, has experienced the painful consequences of illicit trade, transfer and circulations of small arms and light weapons in the hands of criminal gangs, terrorists, armed bandits and militants.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. My Delegation remains deeply concerned over a wide range of consequences from the illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW). We therefore, calls on all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that supply of SALW is restricted only to governments or to entities duly authorized by them. We have witnessed cities and communities destroyed, including the heavy losses of precious lives, property, toll on livelihoods and forced mass migration.

5. Nigeria remains committed to the UN Programme of Action (UN PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects. Nigeria supported the

adoption of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) resolution on 2 April 2014. We welcomes the successful convening and adoption of the consensual outcome document of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8), held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in New York and the Eighth Conference of the States Parties (CSP8) to the ATT held from 22 to 26 August 2022 in Geneva.

6. My delegation underscores the need to present a common front to robustly respond to the threat posed to international peace and security by the non-regulation of conventional weapons. In order to mitigate their proliferation, Nigeria has redoubled efforts at strengthening its borders, while strengthening its cooperation across the West African sub-region and beyond.

7. Our commitment is further demonstrated by the signing and ratification of relevant international, regional and sub-regional instruments such as the ATT and the UNPoA, as well as establishing and sustaining robust partnerships with the AU, the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and other relevant organisations.

8. In addition, a National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) has been set up by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Centre has been involved in activities geared towards stemming the tide of the proliferation of SALWs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. My Country has organized capacity building programmes for security agencies, and carried out an initial baseline assessment of the

SALWs situation in Nigeria, including a comprehensive national survey on small arms and light weapons, comprehensive national weapons marking programme, the establishment of database on SALWs, and a review of Nigeria's firearms law, among other things. It has also established a framework for collaboration with the civil society organizations in order to sustain wider stakeholder participation.

10. Nigeria continues to support and advance the cause of regional and sub-regional initiatives such as the Bamako Declaration (2000), the AU Constitutive Act and the Protocol on the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU (2002), the Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy in Sirte, in 2004, the ECOWAS Convention (2006), the African Union Agenda 2063, the Initiative of Silencing the Guns in Africa, and other relevant initiatives aimed at addressing the threat of the illicit flows of SALW in Africa.

11. In this regard, My Delegation wishes to reiterate its support for the establishment of a UN Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons for developing countries, to train relevant officials nominated by their respective governments in areas related to the implementation of the PoA. We therefore, call on Member States to expedite the implementation of the UN Fellowship Programme after considering the different proposals submitted by the Secretariat.

12. I thank you for your attention.