



STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE
NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

NEW YORK, 3 AUGUST 2022

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Mr. President,

The Delegation of Nigeria congratulates you on your election as the President of the Tenth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We are confident of this process and hopeful that the Conference would achieve successful outcomes.

2. Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) and, the Group of 156 countries on the Humanitarian Consequences of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

3. This Conference provides a unique opportunity to review steps taken since 2015, as well as restate our commitments to the role of the NPT as pivotal to our collective resolve to banish nuclear weapons from arsenals of States, prevent their proliferation and assess the impact of harnessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and human progress, through cooperation, and in line with its Article IV.

4. It should further assist us to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of undertakings by States Parties, while offering fresh perspectives and identifying further measures that could strengthen the implementation of the Treaty.

Mr. President,

5. Our world is not safer today than it was yesterday. Nuclear weapons remain a major threat to humanity and global peaceful co-existence. My country, thus, remains concerned and takes this opportunity to draw attention to the devastating humanitarian consequences of any nuclear weapon detonation. My Delegation, therefore, restates that the objectives of NPT require us to eliminate nuclear weapons, while harnessing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

6. Nigeria considers the current and existential threat of nuclear weapons unacceptable. As States Parties, we are obliged to work concertedly to avert the catastrophic consequences of their possible use or threat of use. As a result, we must not allow this auspicious conference to melt into history without achieving clear progress. We must seize the opportunity it offers to reaffirm our commitment to the NPT, a pivotal instrument for ultimately achieving our collective resolve to eliminate nuclear weapons from the arsenal of States.

Mr. President,

7. Harnessing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and human progress, through cooperation, in line with article IV of the NPT, remains a priority for my delegation. In this connection, we call on the NPT community to pay due attention to the three pillars, including Peaceful Uses and to reaffirm commitment to protect the inalienable right of States Parties to use nuclear energy to meet basic and vital human needs such as power generation, food security, human and animal health remedies, water management and environmental sustainability.

8. Nigeria supports the goal of general and complete disarmament. We believe that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing. Indeed, nuclear disarmament remains the only effective path to non-proliferation. We have demonstrated our unrelenting commitment to a nuclear-free world, by our ratification of the 1997 model additional protocol, the safeguards agreements with the IAEA, the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba, and as a co-sponsor of the de-alerting resolution.

9. For the same reason, **Mr. President**, we fully support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Rather than undermine the NPT, the Nuclear Ban Treaty offers a strong and complementary process in furtherance of the disarmament pathways of the NPT.

10. As a member of the De-Alerting, Stockholm Initiative and the NPDI Groups, Nigeria supports all measures put forward by these laudable initiatives to achieve increased transparency in nuclear disarmament; in the de-alerting of the operational readiness of nuclear weapons; in the continued efforts to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and attempts to commence negotiations to ban the production and stockpiling of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

11. It is imperative that Non-nuclear weapons states are assured against the threat or impact of the deployment of nuclear weapons under a legally binding framework. To ensure the

mutual trust necessary to safeguard existing assurances, and pending the entry into force of the CTBT, the moratorium on nuclear testing should be maintained. In addition, we support the growing focus on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons - an element firmly anchored in the NPT and the Nuclear Ban Treaty, and reflected in the 2010 final document.

12. Nigeria continues to welcome gestures by Nuclear Weapons States to reduce their stockpile of these inhumane weapons. However, our highest expectation is for these states to fulfill their legal obligations, as highlighted in article VI of the Treaty, by wholly eliminating their nuclear arsenals. Clearly, it is their full commitment to nuclear disarmament that can truly lead to the attainment of the objectives of the NPT. With this in mind, we encourage states that are not party to the NPT, to commence steps towards accession.

Mr. President,

13. Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones are practical steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The African Nuclear- Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of PELINDABA) is demonstrative of our continent's will in this regard. The Treaty continues to consolidate on the objective for its establishment and as a viable contribution of the continent to global peace and stability. Accordingly, while supporting and promoting the Pelindaba Treaty, Nigeria also takes this opportunity to stress its full support for the establishment of free zones across all regions, including in the Middle East.

14. It is now evident that no nation is safe in the event of a successful act of nuclear terrorism. With this in mind, Nigeria remains a constructive supporter of all efforts to promote Nuclear Security. We are a party to the International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (INCSANT), as well as other relevant frameworks on this matter, including our ratification of the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its amendment. We continue to do all we can, within our region, and internationally, to forestall nuclear terrorism.

15. My delegation is fully cognisant of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that could result from either a deliberate use and/or unintentional explosion of nuclear weapons. It is in this light that Nigeria calls on all States, particularly nuclear weapons States, to take into consideration, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons on human health, the environment and vital economic resources, among others, and to take necessary measures towards the dismantling and renunciation of these weapons.

16. To conclude, **Mr. President**, the innumerable benefits of nuclear disarmament are never in doubt. The Conference on Disarmament must, therefore, overcome its inertia. States Parties to the NPT, and indeed all Member States of the United Nations, must concretely demonstrate sincerity of purpose and commitment to the goals of the NPT; in particular, nuclear weapons disarmament - a pillar on which there has been no

concrete progress. Nigeria is strongly committed to meeting its obligations under the NPT and our delegation promises to engage constructively in the course of this Conference.

I thank you.