



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE**

**2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO  
THE TREATY ON THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS (NPT)**

**NEW YORK, TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015.**

**Statement by Nigeria**  
**at the General Debate of the**  
**2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the**  
**Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**  
**New York, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2015**

**Madam President,**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ambassador Ferouhhi**, the delegation of Nigeria congratulates you on your election as President of the 1X<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference. We are confident of your commitment to this process and remain hopeful that the conference would achieve a successful conclusion under your able leadership. As one of the Vice-Presidents, we assure you of our full cooperation and constructive engagement in the course of debates and negotiations. My delegation would like to offer condolences to the Government and people of Nepal over the recent devastating earthquake.

We align ourselves with the Statement delivered by Iran, Nigeria, The Netherlands and Austria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the African Group, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) and the Group of 156 countries on the Humanitarian Consequences of nuclear weapons.

This Conference provides a unique opportunity to review steps taken since 2010, as well as restate our commitments to the exceptional 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 Articles IV.

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. My delegation re-states that the objectives of NPT require us to eliminate nuclear weapons, while harnessing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Need I underscore that nuclear technology remains benign, beneficial and productive to mankind, until such

knowledge is adapted for purposes other than peaceful uses. This was one of the noble considerations when the treaty entered into force forty-five years ago - that nuclear technology seized to be manipulated and converted into manufacturing weapons of mass destruction.

## **Madam President,**

As we commemorate the 70 years after the danger and horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki later this year, let me reiterate that nuclear weapons remain a present and existential threat to mankind. We no longer deal with the early generations of atomic bombs, but a collection and modernization of far more powerful and overwhelmingly lethal weapons, whose detonation may signal or perhaps spell the doom of our entire planet. The onus therefore rests on us, to work concertedly to avert the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use. Let us be reminded of the valuable quote from the former South African President Nelson Mandela who warned that, "in reality, no rational answer can be advanced to explain, in a satisfactory manner what; in the end, is the consequences of Cold War inertia and an attachment to the use of the threat of brute force to assert the primacy of some States over others". In agreement with the late Statesman, my delegation continues to stress that the existential threat posed to mankind by nuclear weapons, including their possible use or threat of use, remains unacceptable. In view of this, let me also emphasize that while nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation remain mutually reinforcing, it is an unmistakable fact that nuclear disarmament remains the only effective path to non-proliferation.

As a member of the de-alerting and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative Groups, my delegation supports the measures put forward towards ensuring nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including increased transparency in nuclear disarmament, the de-alerting of operational readiness of nuclear weapons, continued efforts to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and attempts to commence negotiations of a ban in production and stockpiling of Fissile Material for nuclear weapons as a treaty.

My delegation supports the growing focus on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, an element firmly anchored in the NPT, and reflected in the 2010 final document. We welcome the convening of the three meetings in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna and endorses the Pledge issued at the Vienna Conference on the

Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Notwithstanding the ongoing efforts to address nuclear disarmament, Nigeria welcomes additional diplomatic process which could negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons. It is in view of this that my delegation supports the joint statement delivered on behalf of 156 States Parties by the distinguished Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria.

The implementation of the Action Plan, consensually adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, remains a good basis for our deliberations. As a confidence-building measure, expectations should neither be lowered nor diminished, as we remain committed to implementing the Action Plan, and avoid altering agreed terms. The objective is to fully comply with the obligations and commitments, particularly with the full and prompt implementation of all the actions in the 2010 NPT. The support of nuclear weapon States becomes crucial in this regard and this becomes more urgent as NPT appears confronted by serious challenges, not the least, by the non-implementation of a substantial number of actions that are central to the Treaty.

**Madam President,**

My delegation welcomes the gesture by nuclear weapons States to reduce the stockpile of these inhumane weapons. Our highest expectation as a State Parties; however, remains the total elimination of nuclear arsenals by State that posses these weapons, to fulfill, in good faith, their legal obligations as highlighted in Article VI of the Treaty. In the final analysis, it is the demonstration of their full commitment to the principle of nuclear disarmament that can truly lead to the objectives of the NPT. In the same context, my delegation sees neither moral nor acceptable reason for other States not party to this Treaty, to continue to threaten the peace of the world by developing, testing and adamantly defending their justification to possess these weapons of mass destruction.

Nuclear weapon-free zones play an important role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons as a veritable step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and ensuring the denuclearization of all regions. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free

Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) continues to consolidate on the objective for its establishment. The African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON), a mechanism established for measuring compliance with undertakings of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses, has continued to play vital role towards attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation since its establishment in 2010.

While my delegation continues to promote the Pelindaba Treaty, Nigeria fully supports the establishment of such free zones across all regions, including in the Middle East. In this regard, my delegation reiterates its call for holding the agreed conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the region as the minimum starting point. Time is of the essence and actions must follow our avowed commitments.

### **Madam President,**

Nigeria supports the protection of the inalienable rights of all State Parties to the Treaty to use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. While ensuring its continued efforts to meaningfully contribute to meeting basic human needs on vital issues such as power generation, food security, health, water management and the environment, we call for continued and strident collaboration between the IAEA and States Parties to implement its Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. My country currently operates research facilities as part of efforts to ensure the realization of a sustainable future for our people and has benefitted from IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme in this regard, an important action emphasized in the Final Document of the 2010 review.

A strong case for adherence to the NPT is the continued incidences of trafficking in nuclear materials and the threat and likelihood of nuclear terrorism. My delegation is glad to report that Nigeria has taken steps towards ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). Ultimately, no nation is safe, in the event of a successful act of nuclear terrorism. In this regard, my delegation calls on States that are not party to NPT, to join the Treaty, without precondition; and to place promptly, all existing nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards, in conformity with the non-proliferation regime.

The many benefits of nuclear disarmament are never in doubt and States Parties, and indeed all Member States of the United Nations, must concretely demonstrate sincerity of purpose and commitment to the goal of nuclear weapons disarmament. Nigeria is strongly committed to meeting its obligations under the Treaty and my delegation promises to be constructively engaged in the course of this conference.

**I thank you.**