



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by Nigeria**

**delivered**

**by**

**Ambassador Abel Ayoko,  
Under-Secretary, Regions and International Organisation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, Nigeria**

**on**

**STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA  
CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF  
VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS  
(Sixth Committee)**

**At the Trusteeship Council Chamber,  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**10 October, 2016**

*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation commends the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/71/183 that is tabled for deliberation pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 69/120.

2. This deliberation is coming at no better time than now that there are armed conflicts in different parts of the world, thereby threatening international peace and security. Sadly, non-compliance with International Humanitarian Law in many of these theaters of armed conflicts, had further exacerbated the deplorable situation of victims of such conflicts. Therefore, it is important to continue to deliberate on the need for strict compliance with International Humanitarian Law, which basically seeks to protect and improve the situation of victims of armed conflict such as prisoners of war and detainees, civilians who are mostly affected by armed conflicts, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. Nigeria believes in the principles of International Humanitarian Law and the Nigerian government has been making genuine efforts to comply with the Law, despite the peculiar nature of our current security challenges. This has been demonstrated through different means. For instance, all detainees in connection with the confrontation between the Nigeria security forces and the Boko Haram terrorists have always been treated in accordance with both national and international laws. There is proper court trial for those accused and anyone exonerated would be released. Furthermore, government has been providing relief materials and other humanitarian services for the victims in the areas affected. Government also allows access to organizations, such as the ICRC and the Red Crescent, to provide humanitarian services in these conflict zones.

4. On the subject of training of the armed personal to respect International Humanitarian Law, I would like to inform that Nigerian government in collaboration with some international organizations,

such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) have been organizing training programme to sensitize security forces on the need to abide by the rules of engagement in armed conflicts. Therefore, I like to assure that the Government of Nigeria would continue to comply with International Humanitarian Law in her fight against terrorists, as this is the only way the pathetic situation of victims of armed conflict can be ameliorated.

5. In this connection, my delegation will like to convey the gratitude of the government of Nigeria to the international community, including governments and Civil Society Organizations that have expressed concern for the security challenges in the country. It is remarkable to note that, we have been making good and significant progress in the fight against terrorism through international cooperation. However, as terrorism has occasioned a multiplicity of social challenges which the government is making frantic efforts to continue to grapple with, we still require more international cooperation to completely defeat Boko Haram.

6. Indeed, the war against terrorism on all frontiers can only be achieved through the firm and determined resolve of all Member States of the United Nations. States Parties must ensure full compliance with all United Nations Resolutions and Conventions against terrorism and its financing. This will constitute a contextual framework for cooperation among Member States.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. We must continue to underline the importance of compliance with International Humanitarian Law during armed conflict. The realization of the ultimate objectives of this law can only be achieved when we continue to work together and we all express our commitment to respect this law unreservedly.

8. In this regard, my delegation would like to highlight the urgent need for a global synergy to ensure a workable compliance mechanism system for International Humanitarian Law.

I thank you all you listening.