



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Nigerian Statement

at

The Thematic debate of the First Committee:

Conventional Weapons

72nd United Nations General Assembly

New York

20th October, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to restate its confidence in your experience and ability to steer our deliberations to a successful outcome. Nigeria aligns itself with the Statements of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group on this cluster.

Over the years, people have died needlessly from conventional arms and ammunitions produced primarily for the defence and security needs of nation States and other lawful uses. A large portion of the global population, including many in my country has painfully experienced the consequences of illicit small arms and light weapons in the hands of criminal gangs, terrorists and armed militants. These weapons continue to undermine otherwise peaceful societies, cause internal displacement, and are responsible for hundreds of deaths each day.

It is in this regard that my delegation commends the renewed efforts of all States and welcomes the convening of the 6th Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (BMS6) in June last year, which my delegation fully participated in. The consensus adoption of the outcome document is commendable, in view of its efforts to address numerous issues, including by highlighting the significance of the nexus between the UN PoA and the International Tracing Instruments (ITI), and the Sustainable Development

Goals (Goal 16). We look forward to actively participate in the Third Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action (RevCon3) in 2018.

My delegation also welcomes the successful outcome of the Third Conference of States Parties to the ATT held last month in Geneva and reiterates the need for a robust and effective implementation of numerous instruments already in place, as tools for regulating global transfer of conventional weapons. We urge States, particularly large producing and exporting States, not yet parties to this Treaty, to ensure timely accession.

Mr. Chairman

In addressing these issues, Nigeria has redoubled efforts at strengthening its national borders as well as its security cooperation across the West African sub-region. Our commitment is further demonstrated by the signing and ratification of relevant international, regional and sub regional instruments and legal regimes such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), United Nations Programme of action to combat, prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in small and arms and light weapons in all its aspects (UNPOA), amongst others.

The Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PRESCOM) which was set up by the Federal Government in April, 2013 has been involved in activities geared towards stemming the tide of the proliferation of SALWs. It has carried out an initial baseline assessment of SALWs situation in Nigeria, including a comprehensive national survey on small arms and light weapons, comprehensive national weapons marking

programme, establishment of database on SALWs and developing a new firearms law in the country, amongst others.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, we look forward to working with other delegations to translate the vision of international peace and security into a reality for our future and those of our children.

I thank you.