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STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY
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AT THE
69TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
CLUSTER

NEW YORK, MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER, 2014

**Statement by Nigeria
on behalf of the African Group
at the Thematic debate of the First Committee:**

Nuclear Weapons

New York, 20th October, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the African Group.
2. The Group aligns itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Indonesia on the threat posed to humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.
3. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. It therefore reiterates the urgent need for our world, including the outer space, to be free of nuclear weapons, as their presence constitutes an existential threat to the planet, global peace and the future survival of humanity.
4. The African Group acknowledges the useful purposes served by the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the consolidation of the NPT as well as in addressing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation across all regions of the world. Africa supports the principle of complete nuclear disarmament, as the utmost prerequisite for maintaining international peace and security. The status of Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, provides a shield for the continent, including by preventing the stationing of nuclear explosive devices on the territory and prohibiting testing of those destructive weapons.
5. In this regard, the African Group strongly supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Group expresses deep concern at the fact that commitments and obligations of the 2010 NPT Review Action Plan regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear

weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East are yet to be implemented and calls for a speedy and full implementation of these commitments. The Group wishes to reiterate that the continuing delay in establishing the zone, runs contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

6. The African Group underscores the importance of the General Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled: Follow-up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, which provides concrete proposals for realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament. During the general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items, the Group supported the commemoration of the International Day for the total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26th September, 2014. This is in line with its continued efforts to realize the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Group underscores that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority and seeks the commitment of all State in this regard.

7. As we prepare to convene for the IXth NPT Review Conference on the implementation of the treaty in May 2015, the Group seeks the commitment and cooperation of all towards the realization of the overall goal of the NPT and the objective of the Review Conference. The African Group reiterates the need for all States to abide by the spirit and letter of the NPT and to work towards fulfilling its three pillars of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

8. The Group stresses the need to de-emphasize security dependence on nuclear weapons and considers any doctrine justifying their use as unacceptable. The Group further supports; as a high priority, the call for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances by Nuclear Weapons States to all Non Nuclear Weapons States (NNWS), pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

9. The African Group reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and continues to call on all States, particularly the Nuclear Weapons States, to consider the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of these weapons and take measures

aimed at renunciation and dismantling of these inhumane weapons. In this context, the Group welcomes the past two international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons convened in Norway and Mexico and looks forward to the third conference to be hosted in Austria in December 2014. The Group wishes to further highlight the call made at the Second conference, for the development of a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.

10. The African Group has submitted the draft resolution on the **African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty**. We thank delegations for their further support for this resolution. The Group promises to remain constructively engaged with all Member States to fulfil the goal and objective of a nuclear-weapon free world.

I thank you for your attention.