



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**  
**BY**  
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**DEPARTMENT,**  
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**AT THE**  
**69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATE ON OTHER WEAPONS OF**  
**MASS DESTRUCTION CLUSTER**

**NEW YORK, MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2014**

**Statement by Nigeria  
at the General Debate of the First Committee  
on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction Cluster**

**New York, 24 October, 2014**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by expressing Nigeria's continued commitment to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 of 28 April 2004 obliging Member States to refrain from making weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems accessible to non-state actors. The visit to Nigeria in 2010 by the 1540 Implementation Committee of the Security Council affirmed that Nigeria has been in general compliance with this important Resolution.

At the Third Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague early this year, the Nigerian President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, assured the international community that the country would continue to accord high priority to all global efforts towards ending the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. To this end, Nigeria had since the last Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in 2012, strengthened the legal framework for fighting terrorism through the adoption in 2013, of an amendment to its Terrorism (Prevention) Act, thus ensuring the implementation of more robust counter-terrorism measures in the country.

We recognize the need for the Security Council and States in a position to do so, to enhance the capacity of many developing countries especially those in Africa to enable them establish appropriate domestic controls to prevent any act of illicit trafficking in WMD materials on their territories in line with the requirements of Resolution 1540.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With specific respect to chemical weapons, Nigeria remains committed to the complete elimination of chemical weapons under strict and effective international control. We are also pleased to note that in just 17 years since the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, States Parties have made substantial progress towards achieving the ultimate goal of a world free of chemical weapons. We note in particular that CWC currently has membership of 190 States that constitute 98 per cent of global population. It is also worthy of note that 86 per cent of the world's declared stockpile of 72,524 metric tonnes of chemical agent have been destroyed. In addition, 5,545 inspections have taken place at 265 chemical-related sites and at 2024

industrial sites on the territory of 86 States Parties since the April 1997 entry into force of the Convention. In short, OPCW conducts an average of about 241 inspections per year.

CWC remains the only legally-binding international treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under international verification, thus serving as a model in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of WMDs. I need not mention the fact that the Convention also has a provision for challenge inspections to guard against the possibility of any of its members covertly engaging in banned activities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our celebration of the successes of the CWC was interrupted in the recent past by a cloud of gloom on account of the use of chemical weapons against the letter and spirit of the 1925 Geneva Protocol as well as the CWC of 1997. Nigeria remains strongly opposed to the use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone under any circumstance. There cannot be any justification for such use. The successful completion and closure of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission on 30 September 2014 in Syria is a strident reflection and recognition of the leadership of the UN Secretary-General and it further underscored the tireless and collective efforts shown by many States on this subject. My delegation commends the decisive approach through which OPCW experts collaborated with the UN in addressing the reported and very unfortunate case of the use of Chemical Weapons in Syria. Nigeria remains strongly committed to steps and measures to prevent a re-emergence of the use of Chemical Weapons under any guise.

Similarly, the remarkable success by CWC in attaining near universality still leaves some States vulnerable to chemical attack since complete elimination of threat of chemical weapons cannot be achieved until the six States that still remain outside the Convention become Parties. We, therefore, urge these States to accede to the Convention as soon as possible and without pre-conditions.

Along the same line, we note that the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpile was not met by some possessor States. We note with satisfaction, however, that the States concerned have made commitments to ensure total destruction of their remaining stockpile at the shortest possible time. We,

therefore, urge these States to continue to honour their commitment and to continue to report to the Executive Council and the annual Conference of States of CWC on the progress made in the destruction programme.

Nigeria attaches great importance to the full implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention on international cooperation and assistance as a crucial pillar of the Convention and would like to see a steady increase in fiscal allocation to this area from the regular budget of OPCW. In the same vein, Nigeria urges OPCW to continue to implement the Africa Programme considering the tremendous benefit of the Programme to African countries and the interest shown by these countries in the Programme.

In furtherance of its commitment and obligations to the CWC, Nigeria has been involved in Regional and National Sensitization Workshop in collaboration with OPCW between the last quarter of 2013 and the second quarter of this year. Indeed, Nigeria has benefitted in a number of OPCW organized programmes and will continue to participate in sponsored capacity building programmes, including exchange of scientific and technical information for purposes not prohibited under the convention.

On Biological Weapons Convention, Nigeria has remained faithful to its obligations under the Convention and will continue to do so. Nigeria hosted the Regional Workshop for West and Central African States on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25-27 October 2010. We use this opportunity to call for the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) through adoption of a robust verification mechanism. We call for a universality of BWC and urge States that still remain outside it to join the Convention at an early date.

**I thank you for your attention.**