



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by Nigeria

at the General Debate of the First Committee

on All Disarmament and International Security Agenda Items

by

**H.E. Ambassador Hussein Abdullahi,
Under-Secretary (Regions and International Organizations)**

New York, 12th October, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria joins others who have earlier spoken to congratulate you, Ambassador van Oosterom, on your election as Chairman of this Session. We have no doubt that our Committee will benefit from your wealth of experience and expertise. We also commend your predecessor, H.E. Ambassador Rattray of Jamaica, for his leadership and admirable efforts. Nigeria aligns itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Mohammed Fachir, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and that of the African Group read by my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria joined other Member States at the 69th Session last year, to highlight the daunting security challenges confronting our world. However, little has changed to provide confidence and reduce the serious challenges posed to global peace and security by terrorism, proliferation of small arms, and light weapons, and the lack of a determined effort at global nuclear disarmament. In the context of threats to international peace and security, my delegation highlighted in 2014, the astronomical proportion of global defence budgets, including the enormous resources devoted to the maintenance and upgrading of nuclear arsenal systems by nuclear weapons States as well as unfettered access to wide-ranging collection of conventional weapons by unauthorized non-state actors.

The dangers and effects of uncontrolled access to conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, are seen all around us. From Africa to the Middle East, the unprecedented carnage and bloodshed visited on innocent population by mindless terrorists and insurgents have left cities and communities emptied, destroyed or deserted, including the unwarranted loss of precious lives, property, livelihood and forced mass migration. Sadly, these mindless forms of aggression are largely enabled and effectively supported by illicitly purchased or transferred arms by non-state actors.

Mr. Chairman,

On 24th December 2014, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) effectively entered into force. Nigeria signed and ratified the treaty in the hope that its robust, effective and indiscriminate implementation would become an efficient tool in regulating global transfer of conventional weapons. My delegation welcomes the convening of the First Conference of States Parties to the Treaty in Cancun

and congratulates Mexico for successfully hosting the landmark event. My delegation commends the commitment of the 77 States Parties to the Treaty and wishes to encourage signatories and other Member States to join the good cause of ensuring a regulated world of conventional arms transfer.

As President of the Second Conference of States Parties which will take place in 2016, Nigeria will work with Mexico and other delegations to facilitate the resolution on Arms Trade Treaty at this 70th session of the General Assembly to highlight the measures so far taken by States Parties to ensure a robust implementation. While encouraging further universal and broad ratifications of the Treaty by Member States, we must highlight the need to protect the Treaty's integrity, by ensuring that the interests of all States are protected and not just those of major international producing and exporting States.

Mr. Chairman,

While small arms and light weapons in the hands of criminals, terrorists and other armed groups are responsible for the death of thousands of people, nuclear weapons remain the ultimate weapons of mass destruction and their total elimination should be the final objective of all disarmament processes within the spectrum goals being pursued by the United Nations. We also restate our opposition to modernization of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types.

Mr. Chairman,

As already expressed by the African Group, Nigeria regrets the inability of the 9th NPT Review Conference to command the desired consensus on a final outcome document, in spite despite the concerted efforts of non-nuclear weapon States to accommodate the views of others. Despite this obvious setback, my delegation will continue to highlight the unquantifiable risks and threats posed to humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons. Nigeria therefore calls the implementation of all agreed measures and undertakings by the nuclear weapons States in the context of the NPT. It is our hope that the setback of the Review Conference would serve as a necessary reminder on the need to renew commitments to the overall objective of the Treaty.

Nigeria also wishes to highlight the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States

to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their legal obligations and undertakings. Nigeria strongly supports the call for the complete banning of all nuclear weapons, which is the only category of weapons of mass destruction that has not been prohibited by an international legal instrument.

Pending such a time, my delegation will continue to support the call for effective assurances to all Non-Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by Nuclear Weapons States. In this regard, we stress the necessity of the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on Negative Security Assurances to all Non-Nuclear Weapons States.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria believes in the propriety of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We note the 9th Ministerial Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT held on 29th September 2015 and recognize this step as essential to promoting the process of nuclear disarmament. My delegation also seizes this opportunity to call on all States that have not signed or ratified the Treaty to do so.

With regards to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) we note that nineteen year of impasse have prevented the CD from fulfilling its mandate as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. There is no doubt that this long-standing inability to agree to act on its mandate is adversely affecting its reputation and credibility. It was our hope that the members of CD would hasten to do what was required of them and fulfill the objective for its establishment.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria continues to underscore the important role of the First Committee with respect to the realization of the objectives of the UN Charter and to reiterate that the ethos of multilateralism remains the safest guarantee of international peace and security. My delegation shall therefore continue to work constructively in this Committee and all other fora towards achieving the goal of disarmament. On behalf of the African Group, Nigeria will submit three resolutions in the course of our meetings for which we seek the support of all delegations. These are: **(i) African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty,**

(ii) the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and (iii) the Prohibition of the Dumping of Radioactive Wastes.

I thank you.