



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**CONSUL GENERAL**

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
NIGERIA, FRANKFURT, GERMANY**

**AT THE**

**70<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATE ON NUCLEAR  
DISARMAMENT CLUSTER**

**NEW YORK, THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER, 2015**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by expressing the appreciation of my delegation for your efforts and able leadership and to assure you and the Bureau of our continued cooperation and support. The delegation of Nigeria aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of African States on this cluster. Nigeria also aligns itself with the Statement by the Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), and the De-alerting Group respectively.

On behalf of the African Group, the Nigerian delegation would like to introduce the draft resolution entitled: “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty”, also known as The Treaty of Pelindaba. This draft resolution has already been circulated to all Member States. We note, with satisfaction, the overwhelming support of delegations for this resolution in past sessions of the General Assembly and request the continued support of Member States in this regard. The presentation of the resolution again re-emphasizes Africa’s strong commitment to maintaining the continent and adjoining area as truly a zone free of nuclear weapons.

The Nigerian delegation sees nuclear weapon free zones as credible means of promoting the two-pronged approach of fulfilling the overall objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The significance of such zones lies not just in the fact that they ban the production and possession of nuclear weapons within the territory of the Member States in the region, but that; significantly, they also prohibit the stationing of such weapons within the zones.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to stress that, notwithstanding noticeable setback on the establishment of Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, efforts must continue to ensure that the commitments and obligations of the 2010 NPT Review Action Plan are honoured. We continue to

call on all stakeholders and States within the region to work towards its success. My delegation believes that with appropriate demonstration of political will and a determination by all parties to succeed, the important and essential goal of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction will be realized.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The monumental catastrophic humanitarian consequences that could result from either a deliberate use and/or unintentional explosion of nuclear weapons remain a compelling reason why some Member States should end the state of unnecessary denial of the existential threat faced by the human race and the urgent need to address the question of possession of these weapons. In this context, my delegation wishes to re-echo the submission of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD - 1) in 1978, which underscored that: "nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization". Similar expression was highlighted, most stridently, in the outcome document of the 2010 Review Conference, which expressed: "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons". In this connection, Nigeria strongly identifies with the initiative that has shaped the convening of three international conferences to highlight the theme of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. My delegation will support all resolutions in this regard, including those highlighting the ethical imperatives for a nuclear free world and similar measures, in view of Nigeria's strong commitment to the ideals of nuclear disarmament.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Nuclear weapons and their proliferation creates the challenge of security, especially within the context of the new realities such as threats of global and transboundary

terrorism. The risk of nuclear materials falling into the hands of non-state actors, including those risks associated with the possible transfer of nuclear technology to terrorist groups, remain a matter of great concern to my delegation. We welcome continued efforts by the IAEA, particularly its role in monitoring and inspecting nuclear facilities. We urge concerned countries to ensure observance and compliance with IAEA safeguards and standards at all time.

While nuclear weapon States have continued to hold on to their stockpiles, a new phase in the nuclear arms race is evolving with more states acquiring the capacity to develop these weapons. While some nuclear weapons States have public announced reductions of their nuclear arsenal, my delegation still considers as unacceptable, the burden of a world with thousands of these doomsday weapons. These stockpiles pose tremendous danger to mankind and the entire human civilization. It is for this reason that Nigeria joins the call to ban all nuclear weapons, being the only known weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by an international legal instrument.

### **Mr. Chairman,**

Global machineries for measuring the pulse of the numerous dangers faced by the international community through the possession of nuclear weapons as well as the progress made towards nuclear disarmament in today's world are numerous. What has clearly been patently lacking, is the political will to ensure implementation. In this context, my delegation reiterates that, despite the unpleasant conclusion of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, obligations of State Parties to the Treaty, including a total respect for its three-pillar system, must remain sacrosanct.

As a one of the multi-pronged approaches to nuclear disarmament, my delegation continues to stress the necessity of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), bearing in mind the special responsibilities of nuclear weapons States in this regard. There is no doubt that, the CTBT offers a hope of halting further development or proliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby contributing to the goal of nuclear disarmament. Nigeria commends States and Organizations that have remained seized with efforts to promote the CTBT. Being a treaty that could serve as threshold for promoting the process of nuclear disarmament, my delegation calls on the remaining Annex II countries, in particular, nuclear weapon States and those yet to accede to the NPT, to sign and ratify this landmark treaty.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As a State Party to the NPT and a member of the CD, Nigeria will continue to promote a multilateral process and by aligning with Member States, across all regions, to express support for the NPT as the cornerstone for deepening the global non-proliferation regime and other machineries committed to promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. My delegation supports all useful international efforts toward achieving nuclear disarmament, including the best intentions of this Committee and the General Assembly to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament.

**I thank you.**