



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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**CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON SMALL
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA, NIGERIA

AT THE

70TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST COMMITTEE

DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS CLUSTER

NEW YORK, TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER, 2015

**Statement by Nigeria
at the Thematic debate of the First Committee:**

Conventional Weapons

New York, 27 October, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation restates its confidence in your experience and ability to steer this ship to a purposeful destination. Nigeria aligns itself with the African Group Statement delivered by my delegation yesterday.

Over the years, people have died needlessly from arms and ammunitions primarily produced for the defence and security needs of nation States and for lawful uses. Indeed, our debates on this cluster have so far demonstrated the magnitude and continued challenge we face globally regarding the scourge of the proliferation of illicitly acquired conventional weapons.

Small arms and light weapons, for instance, are responsible for more than half a million deaths each year. Evidences abound that violence perpetrated by arms in conflicts kill, on the average, almost 600,000 people annually. From Africa to the Middle East, the unprecedented carnage and bloodshed unleashed by terrorists and other armed militia, have left cities and communities destroyed or deserted, including the loss of precious lives, property and livelihood.

It is in this context that my delegation warmly welcomes the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 24th December 2014. This landmark event, taken together with the successful conclusion of the First Conference of its States Parties in Cancun in August, 2015, signposts a milestone in our collective resolve to degrade and minimize one of the obstacles and limitations to ending unregulated trade in conventional weapons. Nigeria signed and ratified the treaty on 12th August 2013, the first in Africa and third worldwide to do so, in the hope that its robust, effective and indiscriminate implementation would constitute an efficient tool, and as a first step, to regulate global transfer of conventional weapons.

Nigeria has already commenced the process of ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the ATT, through the review of pertinent National Laws, to make them compliant with the ATT and other relevant international instruments for controlling the circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), as well as regulating trade in Conventional Weapons in general.

Mr. Chairman,

As of today, the ATT has a total of Seventy-Seven (77) States Parties and 130 Signatory States. In view of the watershed marked with its entry into force and to highlight the efforts of all that have worked stridently for the realization of the First Conference of States Parties, the delegations of Mexico and Nigeria

would like to introduce the draft resolution entitled: "**The Arms Trade Treaty**", on behalf of more than sixty co-sponsors of the resolution. While still receiving further sponsorship and support, the draft resolution has already been circulated to delegations after due consultations. In view of the need to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use and end users, including the commission of terrorist acts, we call on all delegations to support the resolution.

While congratulating Mexico for the excellent role performed as the Provisional Secretariat and host of the First Conference of States Parties of the ATT, my delegation wishes to seize this opportunity to express appreciation to States Parties for electing Nigeria as President of the Second Conference of States Parties in 2016. Nigeria also congratulates Switzerland as host of ATT's Permanent Secretariat and South Africa as the interim Head of the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to working with other delegations to translate this vision to reality, for our future and those of our children.

I thank you.