Statement by Nigeria
at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015
Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on
Cluster 3 issues: Implementation of the provisions of the Treaty relating to the
inalienable rights of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research and use nuclear
energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination

Geneva, 30 April 2013

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Nigeria commends your efforts so far and wishes to put the
following on the record, with respect to three issues earmarked for these
cluster, viz: the implementation of the provisions of the NPT relating to the
inalienable rights of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research and use nuclear
energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and as anchored on the
inalienable right of States Parties to this treaty in line with Articles I & II of the
NPT.

Nigeria aligns with the Statement read by the distinguished delegate of
Indonesia on this cluster on behalf of NAM and wishes to make the following
remarks in its national capacity. We note the concerns related to nuclear non-
proliferation. In particular, we believe States Parties should ensure that
adequate measures are put in place to forestall illicit procurement and
trafficking of nuclear materials. In this regard, we should be concerned with
poor-regulation or non-regulation of nuclear activities which may jeopardize
global peace, security and development.

Despite this, my delegation remains committed to the development and
peaceful uses of nuclear technology and opposes restricting the right of any
State party to develop nuclear science and technology, for peaceful purposes,
without discrimination, as stipulated in article IV of the Treaty and in line with
extant and appropriate rules. In this regard, the NPT remains a pillar for keeping our world safe from nuclear war and its role in promoting a safer world remains pivotal.

My delegation recognizes the important role of IAEA in assisting States parties, particularly developing States, in planning for and using nuclear science and technology. We also note the importance of nuclear knowledge-sharing and the transfer of appropriate nuclear technology, where possible, to developing countries. This will no doubt sustain and further enhance scientific and technological capabilities among such States Parties, thereby contributing to their socio-economic development.

Nigeria enjoys a robust partnership with the IAEA as the statutory body vested with the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and believes that States Parties should endeavour to cooperate among each other towards the realization of this objective. In particular, my delegation calls on those in a position to do so should extend assistance to others States parties in the provision of nuclear equipment, material, technology and scientific and technological information for achieving the end-goal of peaceful purposes.

As a developing economy, my country remains convinced that nuclear technology has a vital role to play in our lives, and if safely and responsibly applied, could facilitate the attainment of our development goals. Introduction of nuclear electricity in our national energy mix is high on the government’s transformational agenda, and my country, guided by the IAEA and has continued to work towards the realization of this objective while honouring the attendant obligations, to ensure safety and security.

One of the many benefits of the nuclear technology research is in the application of the science to therapy and medicine. There is therefore the need to deepen commitments towards assisting Member States to fight the scourge of diseases. My delegation calls for increased support to African countries in the area of cancer therapy, manpower development and further support to develop further capacity in radiation medicine in developing States Parties.
Mr. Chairman,

I should add that the health sector in my country has benefited from cooperation in capacity and infrastructural development for cancer control and management through advances in Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy, Radio Oncology and Nuclear Medicine Technology. Through this cooperation, ten nuclear medicine facilities are to be built between 2010 and 2016 and equipped in tertiary hospitals across the country with a national cost.

Finally, I would like to re-affirm Nigeria’s commitment to the basic tenets of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to assure that our national Nuclear Programme shall continue to be purely for peaceful purposes geared towards the enhancement of the living standards of the peoples of our, and they shall remain within the framework of verifiable safeguards.

As we prepare for the 2015 review conference, my delegation wishes to re-state that the NPT remains a pillar for keeping our world safe from nuclear holocaust. Nigeria supports the NPT and commends the efforts of IAEA and confidence in its leadership and safeguard mechanisms in the putting the benefit of the atom at the reach of all, in a safer and secure world.

I thank you.