Mr. Chairman,

The 2010 Review Conference reaffirmed that the full and effective implementation of the NPT and the regime of non-proliferation had a vital role in promoting peace and security. The conference also reaffirmed that every effort should be made to implement the NPT in all its aspects and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

This reaffirmation remains relevant and it is for this reason that we call on all States parties to abide by their commitments under the NPT, which for more than four decades has been the key multilateral instrument in the fight against nuclear non-proliferation. Since ratifying the NPT on 27 September 1968, Nigeria has maintained that non-proliferation must be pursued in all its aspects. We demonstrated our unwavering commitment to the non-proliferation regime by signing the CTBT in 2000 and ratifying it the following year. We believe that a categorical statement on global intention to address proliferation in all regions of the world begins with a moratorium on nuclear testing and adherence to the letter and spirit of the CTBT. This is why we would like to see an early entry into force of the CTBT.

Mr Chairman,
It would be significant to recall that the 2010 Review Conference also recognized the need for the right of States parties to peaceful use of nuclear energy not to be constrained as we seek to implement the NPT. The statement made by the IAEA at the beginning of this PrepCom contains a number of projections on the rising demand for nuclear energy by States Parties, including my country Nigeria. Nuclear energy can contribute to development and energy security. However, even as the right
to the peaceful use of nuclear technology is upheld by the third pillar of the NPT, safeguard measures that fall under the purview of the IAEA remain fundamental in ensuring that these rights are not used in a manner that could undermine non-proliferation. We are pleased to state that Nigeria’s quest for nuclear energy for peaceful purposes has been pursued with the full cooperation and assistance of the IAEA.

Mr Chairman,

IAEA’s verification of reports submitted by States and its capacity to ensure safety for all is an appropriate and time-honoured confidence-building measure. Nigeria welcomes the Agency’s comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocols. We need to enhance the verification system for the non-proliferation regime and encourage a robust cooperation between States and the Agency in furtherance of this goal. This of course should be in line with adequate export control mechanism that addresses all security concerns through its universal application.

Mr Chairman,

Nigeria views the establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones as an important step towards the total elimination of these weapons and as a means of pursuing the denuclearization of all regions. The treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk are significant towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. They are crucial components of our meeting and we should continue to work toward their consolidation, while encouraging other regions to become NWF Zones. In this regard, we join the call for the establishment of a Middle East NWFZ in line with the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference. We note, with satisfaction, the announcement that the US Government has taken steps towards ratifying the relevant protocols of the Treaty of Pelindaba. We urge States that are yet to sign or ratify the Treaty, including its protocols, to do so without delay.

I thank you.

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