Nigeria Country Statement at the PREPCOM, 2-12 May 2017, Vienna, Austria


Thank you Chairman

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered under this cluster by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of Non Aligned State Parties to the NPT. We also endorse the working paper by the Non Aligned Movement State Parties on the “the inalienable right to peaceful research, production and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes”. We endorse as well, the joint working paper submitted by the members of the NPDI on peaceful uses and would like to make additional comments in our national capacity.

2. My delegation would like to once again underscore the uniqueness and importance of the Non Proliferation Treaty. Besides serving as an important cornerstone in global peace and security, the grand bargain of the treaty which assures of the right of State Parties to pursue the use of nuclear energy applications for their developmental aspirations make the treaty a timeless and continually relevant instrument.

3. In the recent years, more developing countries including Nigeria are embracing nuclear technology to meet their developmental needs including in important areas like Human and Animal Health, water conservation, Agriculture and Power generation. This is as it should be; indeed, peaceful uses are the only legitimate manner in which the potential of the Nuclear should be applied.

4. We reiterate that the right of all parties to this treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of the Treaty” as stipulated in Article IV, should continue to be respected and deepened by the NPT community.

5. The right to peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy is as inalienable as it is a sovereign choice, however, once the choice is made, the necessity
for international cooperation cannot be over emphasised. In this regard, my delegation highlights the valuable role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in providing support to Member States through the Technical Cooperation Programme.

6. My delegation is also aware of the huge level of support from various Member States and donors whose continued support makes the Technical Cooperation Programme and Peaceful Uses a reality. However, the yawning gap could only be filled by concerted efforts towards more technology transfer and accelerated programmes of capacity building and cooperation.

Mr Chair

7. My delegation believes that Nuclear Science and Technology could play an important role as states strive to realize the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, we urge all states to do all that they can to ensure that access to the benefits made available by peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be enlarged to the greatest extent possible.

8. Nuclear Energy is clean, viable and environment and climate friendly. Recalling the 2015 landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change, it is important to seek more cooperation in enabling access to nuclear energy in the energy mix of interested countries as this would conform not only with the relevant articles of the NPT but also further the commitments of State Parties to the Paris Agreement.

9. Like many other developing countries, Nigeria is not only faithful to its obligations under the NPT, but also in compliance with its relevant Safeguards obligations. Consequently, it is our expectation that the concomitant right to peaceful uses without any form of inhibition or conditionality would be fully respected.

10. On a final note, Disarmament and Non Proliferation are important because they both seek to rid the world of nuclear weapons and thus guarantee security by preventing catastrophic destruction of the peoples of the world. However, it is the Peaceful Uses pillar that possesses the
inherent capability to accelerate the development and prosperity of the World- thus guaranteeing in its own way, human socio economic security and development.

11. Nigeria hopes that this first PREPCOM would begin to set the tone that will lead to the review cycle coming up with clear concrete steps measures that further preserve and facilitate the right of states to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Thank you Chair