Cluster 1 Disarmament and Security Assurances

Thank You Chair,

My delegation appreciates all the efforts you have expended in leading our discussion so far and we restate our confidence in your ability to take this process forward. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the Venezuelan delegation on behalf of the non Aligned Movement and by Sweden on behalf of the De-Alerting Group.

2. On the issue of Disarmament and Security Assurances, Nigeria’s view is unchanged. As a non-nuclear weapon state, Nigeria has and will continue to take its obligations under the NPT seriously. For us, the nuclear weapons option was never contemplated in the first place. Nigeria’s basic position has always been that as long as Nuclear Weapons exist, they constitute a threat to humanity.

3. In this context, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a Nuclear Weapons detonation in today’s world can best be imagined. It is for this reason that Nigeria holds the view that the most effective and credible guarantee against the threat of the use of nuclear weapons lies in their complete and total elimination.

4. Pursuant to this goal and cognisant of the lack of progress on disarmament expressed clearly by the stalemate of the Conference on Disarmament and the nearly five decades journey of the NPT which has not resulted in the ultimate goal of disarmament, Nigeria in concert with other similarly minded countries successfully got Resolution L.71 passed at the General Assembly in 2016 with overwhelming support from Member States of the United Nations. Consequently, the efforts to negotiate a binding treaty banning Nuclear Weapons are on-going in New York.

5. When successfully negotiated and in force, that treaty would be a further testament to the shared global aspiration for nuclear disarmament. It is our hope that Nuclear Weapon States would take
adequate note that the international community has achieved an agreement of the minds, (consensus ad idem) that in today’s world, Nuclear Weapons have no place. Accordingly, we look forward to clear, concrete and transparent actions by Nuclear Weapon States on their measurable and verifiable commitments towards Nuclear Disarmament at the earliest possible date.

6. In this connection, Nigeria continues to support the de-alerting initiative as a confidence building measure and as a pragmatic approach to disarmament. We are of the view that de-alerting could provide the much needed signal that nuclear weapon states take their responsibilities seriously in the lead to the 2020 Review Conference.

7. Nigeria reminds all, that the grand bargain of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy on which the NPT was construed, embodies the recognition that the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by some state could undermine efforts to prevent their proliferation. Let there be no mistake- the moral watershed in the clarion call for the non-proliferation and eventual elimination of these weapons of extreme terror, is the recognition that no one could claim to be safe and secure as long as there exists thousands of nuclear warheads, and others are making spirited efforts to acquire or produce more of these lethal arsenal

Mr Chair

8. My delegation continues to look forward to the actualisation of commitments expressed by Nuclear Weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament and we urge them to respond to the urgent call contained in Action 5 of the “action plan of the 2010 Review Conference on disarmament of nuclear weapons” and report to the Review Process of the Treaty on the progress made in this regard.

On Security Assurances

9. While we continue working towards achieving a nuclear weapons free world, we must not under estimate the value of incremental
success. For us, incremental success means continuing progress on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and an **unconditional granting of negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states.**

Mr. Chairman

11. We are gathered in Vienna to work assiduously for a successful 2020 Review Process of the NPT in order to provide the platform for a peaceful and secure world for present and future generations. It is an achievable target and Nigeria is all for it and ready to work for it.

I thank you