



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT
OF AFRICAN GROUP**

READ BY

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MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE 2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
4 -15 MAY, 2009**

NEW YORK, 4TH MAY, 2009

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the African group let me congratulate you upon your unanimous election as the chairman of this preparatory committee on the 2010 NPT Review conference. You can count on the customary African group's support. The African Group, aligning itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement earlier delivered by Cuba, will like to emphasize the following aspects:

Reaffirming the importance of promoting international peace and stability, the group remains strongly committed to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control premised on the principle of undiminished security for all states.

Informed by this vision, the African group reiterates its firm belief in the achievement of the goals of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear technology for development as enshrined in the NPT.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

As was clearly articulated by NAM, the African Group wishes to highlight that the total, elimination of all nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. While recognizing the reported reduction in existing nuclear arsenals, and other positive developments in this regard, especially in recent months, Africa still remains convinced that meaningful nuclear disarmament should be based on the principle of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility in all matters related to nuclear disarmament.

In this regard, Africa believes that within the NPT context there exists a sound consensual basis on how to achieve this goal. While we look forward to a fruitful 2010 Review Conference, Africa believes that it is pertinent that we should not lose sight of the gains of the past. These gains include: the implementation of the 13 practical steps as agreed in the 2000 review conference.

NON-PROLIFERATION

Africa believes that nuclear weapons still represent the greatest threat to humanity and therefore should be eliminated. Both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects should be pursued as our shared goals. It is pertinent to state that Africa has played its part by ensuring the continent's universal membership of the NPT, establishing the ideals of a nuclear weapons-free zone (The Treaty of Pelindaba).

In this connection, we reaffirm and recognize the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones (NWFZ) by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Raratonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk. This we believe should serve as a positive step towards the ultimate objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this respect while Africa is working towards the entry into force of the treaty of Pelindaba, we wish to call on NWS to demonstrate their commitment to the nuclear weapon-free zones.

Africa recalls the Resolution on the Middle East adopted in 1995 as well as the final document of the 2000 review conference (part1) and calls for meaningful progress on this resolution.

NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES

Pending complete and verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons, we wish to remind all the nuclear weapons states of their NPT obligations to give non-discriminatory negative security assurances (NSA) to non nuclear weapon states. We call for a finalization of these assurances under a universal and legally-binding instrument as a matter of priority.

While reaffirming the centrality of the NPT, we believe strongly that multilateral forum is the most effective framework for disarmament negotiations for weapons of this magnitude of lethality.

We call on all delegations to demonstrate the necessary political will to enhance progress on the issue of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Mr. President,

I thank you.