



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

BY

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*Delivered at the*

**2007 SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
DISARMAMENT COMMISSION**

**NEW YORK, 10 APRIL 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation joins previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the 2007 session of the Disarmament Commission. We also congratulate other members of the Bureau, and further assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Nigerian delegation.

We further wish to express profound appreciation to the Chairmen of the two Working Groups for providing us with the respective working documents on each of the two agenda items. We believe that both of them contain enough materials that would lead our discussions to the desired consensus.

We welcome the Secretary General to this Opening Session and applauded his efforts at providing added momentum to the disarmament agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Ambassadors of Indonesia and Sudan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group respectively. I would however wish to highlight a few additional areas of concern to my delegation.

We are gathered here at a time when the International community has witnessed a series of setbacks in various disarmament fora as a result of lack of political will among some Member States to advance matters related to disarmament and non-proliferation. These failures should serve as a wake-up call to all of us. My delegation is of the firm belief that we must not continue to tread on such a path but rather we should all join hands to reverse this trend by reaffirming our commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

It is in this regard that my delegation attaches great importance to the current Session of the Disarmament Commission, not only because it is the second year of the three year cycle, for which we expect substantive discussions to commence, but also there is the added expectation that as this Session interfaces with the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), its outcome will impact on the proceedings of the latter meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

On agenda item 1, my delegation regards the UNDC as a unique, specialized and deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery, which has contributed to the emergence of global norms in the past and benefited the international security

environment. We therefore expect this session to build on the achievements of the past by embracing multilateralism in addressing the issue of the principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its ramifications.

My delegation strongly believes that nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to humanity. We therefore support the effective elimination of nuclear weapons through multilateral negotiation that would lead to the conclusion of a Convention prohibiting the development, production, testing stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons. Towards this end, nuclear weapon states must commit themselves to reverse the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their means of delivery. We further support the establishment of a legally binding international instrument on security assurances.

Mr. Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation is also convinced that ownership of nuclear weapons confers special and indeed additional responsibility on their owners to build real confidence in the international community by committing themselves to a programme of nuclear disarmament, leading to total elimination of nuclear weapons, and absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

On the issue of practical Confidence Building Measures (CBMS) in the field of conventional arms, my delegation believes that CBMS represent another means of strengthening international peace and security. Confidence building creates a conducive atmosphere for negotiation of arms control and disarmament. When applied in a comprehensive manner, CBMS can be conducive to achieving security based on cooperation and openness thus contributing to the wider objective of the renunciation of the use or threat of use of force. To this end, the implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence building measures is of significance, taking into account the prevailing political military and other conditions.

Mr. Chairman

The global arms trade has defied all efforts towards addressing the negative consequences of conventional arms proliferation in crisis ridden developing countries. It is therefore a matter of serious concern that developing countries account for 63.2 percent of the value of international arms delivery estimated at over 1.1 trillion dollars in 2006. We recall that SSOD 1 referred to heavy military expenditure as a colossal waste of resources. In this regard, the

Nigerian delegation calls for a drastic reduction of military expenditure so that resources saved could be channeled towards efforts aimed at fighting poverty and improving other human conditions. It is however a matter of regret that the 2016 estimate of global military expenditure rose astronomically to 1.1 trillion dollars, a 2.5 percent of world GDP.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is equally concerned that illegal trade in small arms and light weapons and their easy accessibility to non-state actors, continue to threaten peace, stability security and the economies of developing countries. It is in this regard that we have consistently advocated for international measures to check the proliferation of these weapons at national, regional and international levels. We believe that the Moratorium by Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the importation and exportation of these arms, which was adopted as a Convention last June, could serve as a useful instrument in that direction.

My delegation is ready to work with other delegations so that at the end of this session we would have contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security.

I Thank You.