



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

By

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MEMBER OF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION**

ON THE

**THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT
COMMISSION (UNDC)**

NEW YORK, 8TH APRIL, 2008

Mr. Chairman, joining other preceding voices, the Nigerian delegation wishes to felicitate with you on your election. We believe that your diplomatic skills and experience in this field will guide us to a fruitful deliberation. We are equally congratulating all the members of the elected bureau. My delegation is hereby pledging its unflinching support for you.

While we hereby express our agreement with the positions earlier stated by the Non- Aligned Movement, and the African Group, Nigeria equally wishes to reiterate its views on the issues on the agenda as follows:

- On Agenda Item 1, “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of Nuclear weapons”, Nigeria laments that little progress had been achieved in these fields in recent years. We wish to reiterate our delegation’s position favouring total and verifiable nuclear disarmament and non proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through multilateral diplomatic negotiations. To this end, we enjoin all Member States to demonstrate full commitments to complete implementation of all the relevant instruments negotiated to achieve their universalization;
- On Nuclear Weapons Free -Zones, we observe increasing efforts at signing such treaties at regional and sub-regional levels. We however call upon Member States to show much political good will in order to fully operationalize these agreements;
- On conventional weapons, we hereby reiterate our concern at the heavy casualty inflicted on our people by the so-called small and light weapons and the serious threat that they pose to peace, security and development all over the world. These arms must be curtailed and controlled urgently. While we feel somehow encouraged at the on-going meetings of the Group of Government Experts, GGE, on Small Arms and Light weapons, SALW, we observe that Member States still need to demonstrate further commitment to a universal legal instrument relating to SALW.
- In respect of item 2 on the agenda on “Practical confidence building measures, CBMs, in the field of conventional weapons”, Nigeria agrees that the ultimate objectives of CBM are, inter alia, to strengthen international peace and security, to ameliorate relations among states and promote socio-economic and cultural well-being of peoples of the world and prevent wars.

We believe that mutual confidence represents the corner stone on which the foundation of the edifice of world peace and prosperity must rely. In view of the multidimensional nature of the issue of confidence building, our delegation will like to encourage all member States to show much magnanimity towards understanding these aspects of world peace and security.

- The United Nations Disarmament Commission's overarching importance cannot be overemphasized as the only all-embracing deliberative forum, aside from the UN general Assembly where Member States can participate in debates and formulation of guidelines on disarmament. Moreover, this is now the last year of the three year-cycle of the Disarmament Commission. Nigeria therefore wishes to call on all members to endeavor to demonstrate broad mindedness with a view to achieving consensus on all the agenda items being debated. Nigeria wishes the chairmen of the two working groups a resounding success and once, again we call on all Member States to show much broadmindedness in debate, greater flexibility in negotiation and unflinching commitment to full implementation of agreements reached.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.