



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

828 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • TEL. (212) 953-9130 • FAX (212) 697-1970

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**STATEMENT**

**By**

**MR. LAWRENCE O. OBISAKIN  
MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA**

**ON**

**BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

**AT THE**

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

**NEW YORK, 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2009**

**Mr. Chairman,**

On behalf of the African Group, I take the floor to congratulate you on your election, as the chair of this deliberative body on disarmament. Your effort at achieving the consensus agenda remains an attestation to your diplomatic credentials.

The African group wishes to align itself with the statement of the Non-aligned group read by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Indonesia.

### **NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

Africa reiterates its conviction as follows:

That nuclear weapons still represent the greatest threat to humanity and therefore calls for the achievement, at the earliest possible time, of the universality of the Non Nuclear proliferation treaty, with a view to promoting without further delay, the fulfillment of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

All Nuclear Weapon states should have due diligence in implementing all their obligations within the agreed NPT and other international obligations and desist from developing of new types of nuclear weapons and conclude legally binding, unconditional Negative Security assurances to non Nuclear states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

Multilateral diplomatic negotiation, within the provisions of the United Nations charter, remains the most effective means for achieving credible universal nuclear disarmament and non-

proliferation in order to safeguard and strengthen international Peace and security;

The current global financial crisis has further strengthened the urgency of the need for all stake holders to redouble their efforts to revive all disarmament machineries with a view to breaking the impasse that has characterized it for almost a decade;

While noting the unique and important position of the UN Disarmament Commission as the main deliberative body on disarmament in multilateral diplomacy, laments its failure to reach consensus on any substantive issue over its two cycles the most recent of which has ended last April 2008.

The African Group is calling on all Member States of the UN to demonstrate sufficient political goodwill and requisite flexibility and deep understanding with a view to achieving concrete recommendations on disarmament to further enhance international peace and security currently needed for development in our world today.

However, Africa welcomes the entry into force of the nuclear Weapon Free zone treaty in Central Asia, on 21 March, and looks forward to the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty and the ratification of its relevant protocols by respective countries.

In this connection Africa reiterates its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone Free of nuclear, as well as other weapons of mass destruction. We believe as a priority step to this end, there is the urgent need to establish a Nuclear weapon Free Zone in the Middle East in accordance with extant UN resolutions.

## **CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

Africa, perhaps having one of the highest number of victims of illegal trade, circulation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, takes note and hopes for a successful completion of negotiations on the on-going Open-ended working group meeting towards an arms Trade Treaty and other cognate fora on combating illicit SALWs.

**Mr. Chairman:**

Shukran,

Merci beaucoup,

Muchas gracias,

I thank You