



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY, NEW YORK

NEW YORK, September 25, 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, may I congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, taking place today in New York. I am optimistic that your rich experience and skill will no doubt steer this Conference to achieve our desired outcome.

2. I would like to express our appreciation to the Executive Secretary, Ambassador Tibor Toth and the Provisional Technical Secretariat for their untiring efforts, commitment to the ideals of the organization, and the preparation us for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Against the backdrop of the recent Political developments, it is imperative for State Signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty to underscore a commitment to higher principled position for the total elimination of all forms of nuclear testing. Nigeria Supports the goals of the Treaty whose intention is the enforcement of a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests, with at their attendant ramifications The development of one aspect of nuclear material and other nuclear weapons is not an end, but arguably a means to the development of more sophisticated types, a challenge which we all, collectively must resist.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The year 2009, like no other year, has brought nuclear disarmament and Non-proliferation to prominence and delicate issue in our international political discourse. It has also reflected in overwhelming outpouring of support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The doubts that persisted for many years have waned, and the entry into force of the treaty has become increasingly realizable. As States Signatories, we must not wait but seize the momentum

Mr. Chairman

5. My delegation attaches great importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as a *sin qua non* to international peace and security. It is on this premise that we strongly urge all, global partners to make concerted efforts towards achieving nuclear disarmament.

6. The achievement of a nuclear disarmament requires tremendous; political will. We recognize the commitment of Weapon States at the 1995 and 2000 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences. My delegation therefore urges their Continued commitment and support, to pave the way to the early entry into force of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman

7. In the final Declaration of the Article XIV Conference held in 2000, a number of strategies were set for effective implementation towards achieving the goal of early entry into force of the Treaty, which is the

primary aim of the Conference, Accordingly, my delegation sees a need to review the proposals earlier made, to verify if Some weaknesses had occurred, with a view to retooling them for effect. This is crucial for progress to be made.

8. Nigeria is encouraged by the recent statement made at the UNSC debate on Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation that the US will pursue the ratification of the CTBT. Indonesia also spoke in a similar direction. Both Statements represent positive signals in the right direction. We call on the International Community to sustain this renewed political momentum as the world will be safer by the elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

9. We equally note with delight that since last article XIV conference of 2007 eight more states have signed the CTBT and five have ratified it, including one annex 2 state. We further call on all Annex 2 states to ratify the CTBT. We wish to appeal to the States whose ratification remains crucial for the treaty's entry into force, to do so forthwith.

10. Nigeria welcomes the entry into force of the African Nuclear Weapon- Free Zone Treaty, called the Treaty of Pelindaba on 15th July this year.

11. I thank you.