



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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# **S T A T E M E N T**

**BY**

**AMBASSADOR AMINU B. WALI, mni**  
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**AT THE**

**ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST BAN TREATY  
(CTBT)**

**NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Mr. President

I wish to congratulate you on behalf of the Nigerian delegation, on your election as the President of the 2005 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear — Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). We are confident that under your guidance, and with your diplomatic skill, this Conference will reach a fruitful conclusion. I look forward to working closely with you on the Bureau of the Conference.

May I also express my appreciation to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan for convening this Conference and to the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear — Test Ban Treaty Organisations for the organisation of the Conference.

Mr. President,

Nigeria is pleased to see that the CTBT has almost reached universality because of the large number of signatory as well as ratifying states. The importance of the CTBT to the international non-proliferation regime cannot be over - emphasised. It is the only way to achieving the collective objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. We are however, concerned that nine years after the signing ceremony of the treaty it has not yet come into effect. This situation needs to be reversed in view of the current volatile global situation, particularly with regards to potential threats of nuclear terrorism or access to dirty bomb. The failure of the 2005 NPT Review Conference has further placed a sense of urgency on the international community to close up the wide gaps in the positions of states on issues concerning disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The Secretary-General in his report "in larger freedom" called on all countries to uphold the moratorium on nuclear test explosions until we can achieve the entry with force of the treaty. Unfortunately, there was no agreement on disarmament

and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the outcome document adopted at the recently concluded Summit last week. However, lack of mention of disarmament in the outcome document does not vitiate the importance of pursuit the goals of universality of the treaty, through ratification and its early entry into force.

Mr. President,

We believe that this Conference provides an opportunity for state signatories, non-state signatories, and ractifiers to re-energise and re-invigorate the treaty through practical commitments. We note the difficulties of most developing countries to participate in the major activities of the treaty, Preparatory Commission particularly working group B. We call on the PTS to intensify its Technical and Advisory services to these states to enable them participate fully in the activities of the organisation. We urge the remaining 11 of the Annex II States, whose ratification is required for the entry into force of the Treaty, to make best efforts to sign and ratify the treaty as soon as possible. The PTS should target

these countries as part of its promotional and external relation activities.

Mr. President,

It is no accident that thirty percent of states signatories of the CTBT comes from Africa, with a record number of 52 signatories. This is in consonance with our commitment, to denuclearising of Africa, under the Pelindaba Treaty as well as solemn undertaken to support complete and total disarmament globally. The task of the Preparatory Commission in fostering international cooperation therefore, is more than passing interest in Africa especially those activities, which concern the promotion of technical capacity and provision of access to information and experience in treaty related matters. For example, we believe that CTBT technology can promote technological advancement, mitigate disasters and provide early, warning and could contribute to the tsunami and other natural disasters.

Mr. President,

I wish to welcome Ambassador Tibor Toth, the new Executive Secretary of the CTBTO. While pledging Nigeria's continued cooperation and support, I look forward to the activities that he might want to pursue to help early entry into force.

I should also express my Government's appreciation to Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffman, for his stewardship. I recall his visit to Nigeria, and the fruitful discussion he had with senior Nigerian Government Officials and look forward for the strengthening of cooperation between the Commission and my country.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Nigeria supports the draft final Declaration of this Conference, confident that it would contribute to the great awareness of the treaty and facilitate its early entry into force.

I thank you.