

**STATEMENT FOR NIGERIA AT THE OPENING OF THE 2023 SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF EGYPT**

Thank you for giving Nigeria the floor.

Mr. President,

As my delegation takes the floor for the first time under your Presidency and during the first plenary of the 2023 session of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the leadership of the CD. More importantly, the delegation of Nigeria extends brotherly support to the good people of Egypt and by extension to Your Excellency, as you steer our work. My delegation relies on your knowledge, experience and commitment to deliberating proposals that command consensus to ensure concrete outcomes in this year's session of the CD. We also welcome new Ambassadors who recently joined the CD family.

In the spirit of the season, permit me, Mr. President, to welcome all member States to the new year and the 2023 session of the CD. My delegation remains confident that our work this year could produce some progress which has unfortunately eluded the CD for more than two decades. Accordingly, we urge all delegations to demonstrate flexibility as we work to achieve positive outcomes. Be assured of our support for your proposal on the two sessions dedicated to zones Free of Nuclear Weapons and Negative Security Assurances (NSA).

Mr. President,

My delegation notes

that the 2022 session of the CD witnessed many attempts, under different Presidencies, to attain consensus on various issues relevant to our work in the CD. However, we wish to place on record that the lack of progress in the CD is a reflection of the absence of political will and flexibility by member States to reach consensus in divergent views. Against this backdrop, my delegation calls for action-oriented dialogue, as we work stridently to repair the image of the CD, and refrain from deliberations that limit chances for consensus in our efforts to achieve the mandate of the CD.

In this context, my delegation strongly encourages member states to utilize the opportunity availed by this new dawn of the 2023 session, to re-examine erstwhile positions and views on matters that could potentially advance the mandate of the CD.

Finally, Mr. President,

The current state of affairs around the world especially in the context of armament, signposts the urgent the need for introspection on the possible humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons proliferation. It should amplify the need for concrete and genuine cooperation to address nuclear disarmament and the total eradication of nuclear weapons, wherever they exist. On this note and as a non-complex construct, my delegation urges member States to embrace meaningful dialogues that potentially stimulate concrete outcomes without impinging or overriding existing national laws of any State.

Once again, you can rest assured of my delegation's full support. We wish you success in days and weeks ahead.

I thank you.