

**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT DURING THE CD'S THEMATIC DEBATE ON NEGATIVE
SECURITY ASSURANCES HOSTED BY THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT,
FEBRUARY, 2023**

Thank you for giving Nigeria the floor,

Mr. President,

My delegation commends the skillful manner in which you have carefully steered our work under your Presidency and we reiterate our confidence in your guidance to lead us towards concrete outcomes.

We further commend you for hosting such a timely debate on the issue of Negative Security Assurances which a number of delegations would agree, is crucial to our work in the CD.

Mr. President,

In the context of the lingering question of how global security can be addressed in a pragmatic and inclusive manner, my delegation would like to reaffirm its support for a legally binding instrument on Negative Security Assurances (NSA), within the framework of Nuclear Disarmament. Considering that, dialogue to promote the coming into force of such an instrument has continued to stall for decades, due to proliferation of divergent and counter views, we urge nuclear weapons States to reconsider previous positions and embrace productive dialogue to achieve this pragmatic confidence-building measure. Moreover, as we continue to witness global fragmentation of security systems and asymmetries continue to widen, the need for concrete dialogue to attain consensus on the establishment of binding measures in the context of NSAs cannot be overstated.

Mr President,

NSAs are an all-inclusive confidence building measure which safeguards the rights and safety of non-nuclear weapon states. This incontrovertible principle cannot remain unattended as sophisticated capabilities continue to be developed in the context of weaponized nuclear capabilities. Against this backdrop, it is pertinent to highlight that the indefinite stalling of dialogue to facilitate an all-inclusive legally binding instrument on NSAs has resulted in a diversion of focus by a number of previously known non-nuclear weapon States. Consequently, such States have since commenced exploits in the area of acquiring, developing and

even testing of newly acquired nuclear capabilities. My delegation attributes such positions to the pure need for such States to set in place counter measures against external nuclear aggression. The question therefore arises: could any fault truly be ascribed to the exploits of these States, particularly as certain NWS continue to deflect dialogue on NSAs while expending huge resources on developing sophisticated nuclear arsenals?

While my delegation leaves this crucial question in the minds of member States, we reiterate our position to engage in dialogue aimed at regulating and safeguarding the use of nuclear capabilities for peaceful uses.

We also take this opportunity to support the position held by South Africa at the thematic debate on nuclear weapons free zones, calling for the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons in the most volatile regions susceptible to nuclear catastrophes.

I thank you