STATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AT THE

THE OPENING OF THE 2024 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF INDIA

25 JANUARY, 2024
Thank you for giving Nigeria the floor.

Nigeria aligns itself with statement delivered by the delegation of Vietnam on behalf of the G21.

**Mr. President,**

As my delegation takes the floor for the first time under your Presidency and at the opening of the 2024 session of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), allow me to congratulate you, Excellency, on your assumption of the esteemed leadership of the CD. My delegation relies on your knowledge, experience and commitment to chart a productive path for the CD this year as has clearly been demonstrated in your chosen approach to conduct our work thus far.

In the spirit of the season, permit me, Mr. President, to welcome all member States to the new year and the 2024 session of the CD and to assure of my delegation’s full support as we seek to achieve concrete outcomes this year.

**Mr. President,**

The inability of the CD to achieve its assigned mandate for over two decades remains a major concern for my delegation. In particular, it is common knowledge that the lack of progress in the CD is a reflection of the absence of political will and flexibility by member States to work towards consensus. This unfortunate state of affairs has now become a recognized trend which member States must seek to address.

More recently, the 2023 session of the CD witnessed numerous attempts, under different Presidencies, to attain consensus on various issues relevant to our work in the CD, but sadly, to no avail. Against this backdrop, my delegation is of the view that the 2024 session of the CD must focus on pragmatic measures to repair the
image of the CD. In this context, we must refrain from deliberations capable of truncating our efforts to attain concrete outcomes.

**Finally, Mr. President,**

While it is no secret that global tensions are at an all-time high, the potential use of nuclear weapons cannot be completely ruled out, considering prevailing realities. On this score, it is quite evident that the current state of affairs around the world signposts an urgent need for the CD to begin to embrace constructive dialogue with a view to stimulating introspection on the possible humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Such stocktaking measures should amplify the need for concrete and genuine cooperation to address nuclear disarmament, as we work assiduously toward the total eradication of all nuclear weapons, wherever they exist. Our work in the CD this year must, therefore, be predicated on inclusive and action-oriented dialogue to achieve concrete outcomes.

I thank you.