

STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

AT THE

THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE:  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS CLUSTER

80<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**Mr. Chairman,**

Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

2. The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) continues to fuel terrorism, organized crime, and armed violence, posing grave threats to peace, security, and sustainable development, particularly in Africa. The urgency to curb their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread underscores the importance of collective and multilateral action.

3. Nigeria calls on all States, especially major producing States, to ensure that the transfer of SALWs is strictly limited to governments or duly authorized entities, in accordance with international law.

4. My delegation welcomes the consensual outcome of the Fourth Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action (UN PoA), held in June 2024, and emphasizes the need for its full implementation, particularly in strengthening international cooperation, capacity-building, and technical and financial assistance.

5. As the first African country to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Nigeria remains steadfast in its commitment to the Treaty's objectives and those of the UN Programme of Action. We welcome the successful outcome of the Eleventh Conference of States Parties, held in August 2025 in Geneva, and urge all States Parties to ensure its balanced and effective implementation, particularly in strengthening national controls and preventing the diversion of conventional arms.

6. Domestically, Nigeria continues to strengthen border controls, enhance inter-agency coordination, and deepen regional cooperation to combat illicit arms flows. The establishment of the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

(NCCSALW) underscores our determination to address this menace comprehensively.

7. We have undertaken several initiatives, including national weapons marking, a baseline survey of SALWs, the creation of a national database, review of firearms legislation, and continuous training for security agencies. We also value our collaboration with civil society in advancing transparency and accountability.

8. Regionally, Nigeria remains committed to the Bamako Declaration, the ECOWAS Convention on SALWs (2006), the AU Agenda 2063, and the Silencing the Guns in Africa initiative, which provide vital frameworks for action against illicit arms flows.

9. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, Nigeria reiterates its support for the establishment of a United Nations Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons to build national capacities, particularly in developing countries. We call on all Member States to support and expedite its implementation.

I thank you.