

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:

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

DURING THE 80TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025

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Mr. Chairman,

The Federal Republic of Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Republic of Guinea Bissau on behalf of the African Group.

2. Nuclear weapons continue to pose a serious threat to humanity. Their complete elimination remains indispensable for the preservation of international peace and security, particularly in this era marked by an unprecedented erosion of trust and solidarity among nations.

Mr. Chair,

3. Let us reflect on the devastating humanitarian consequences that nuclear weapons inflict upon human civilization and renew our collective resolve for their total and irreversible elimination. The colossal resources expended on the maintenance and modernization of these weapons stand in stark contrast to the limited investments directed toward socio-economic development. It is therefore incumbent upon the international community to redirect its energies and resources from weapons of mass destruction toward promoting peace, human welfare, and sustainable development.

4. The continued stagnation in nuclear disarmament remains a matter of serious concern. The repeated inability of NPT Review

Conferences to yield substantive progress undermines confidence in the Treaty's credibility. Nigeria calls for renewed political will and genuine commitment from all States Parties to reverse this trend. We stand ready to engage constructively to ensure that the Eleventh Review Conference produces a meaningful outcome that reaffirms the NPT as the cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

5. In this regard, Nigeria calls upon all Nuclear-Weapon States to renew their commitment and demonstrate genuine political will toward the elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in full compliance with their legal obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the relevant agreed outcomes of its Review Conferences. Nigeria further urges all States to work diligently and in concert to realize the shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, bearing in mind that the universalization and credibility of the NPT rest on the balanced and faithful implementation of its three mutually reinforcing pillars—disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

6. African States have long recognized the existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity. Guided by this conviction, they collectively adopted the Treaty of Pelindaba, which prohibits the acquisition of nuclear weapons and established Africa as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. In this context, my delegation

encourages other regions, particularly those yet to achieve such status, to emulate Africa's example in advancing global disarmament and regional security.

Mr. Chair,

7. The adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) represents a significant milestone in global efforts toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nigeria regards the TPNW as a vital complement to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), reinforcing its fundamental pillars of disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. My delegation takes great pride in its active contribution to the negotiation and adoption of this historic instrument, and in being among the first States to sign and ratify it. We commend all States that have acceded to the Treaty and reiterate our call on those that are yet to do so to join without delay. As a major instrument designed to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, Nigeria urges all Nuclear-Weapon States to demonstrate good faith by joining the Treaty and halting all nuclear weapon tests, modernization, and re-development activities.

8. My delegation welcomes the successful convening of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the adoption of its Declaration, *"Strengthening Our Commitment to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons Amid Rising Global Instability."* We look forward to the First

Review Conference under South Africa's chairmanship and call on all States, particularly Nuclear-Weapon States and those under extended deterrence, to accede to the Treaty and advance its full implementation.

Mr. Chair,

9. Nigeria remains firmly committed to the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime while recognizing the vital role of nuclear energy in sustainable development. We reaffirm the inalienable right of all States to the peaceful use of nuclear technology in line with the NPT and the IAEA Statute. In this regard, Nigeria, together with other developing countries, continues to apply nuclear science in key sectors such as health, agriculture, energy, and water management to advance national development goals.

10. Nigeria joins the call for strengthened measures to ensure effective control over the import and export of radioactive materials, as well as for the timely conversion of highly enriched uranium used in research reactors to low enriched uranium. Similarly, my delegation calls for a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, as a practical step toward limiting the quantitative enhancement of nuclear arsenals and advancing the goal of their total elimination.

Mr. Chair,

11. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) remains central to global efforts toward a world free of nuclear weapons. Nigeria emphasizes that its value lies not only in prohibiting nuclear tests but also in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for human and environmental benefit. We commend progress in the verification regime and reaffirm our strong support for the Treaty. Nigeria urges all States, particularly those yet to ratify it, to do so without further delay, as its entry into force is essential to advancing global peace and security.

12. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, Nigeria reiterates its call for the full and effective implementation of all treaties aimed at the total elimination of nuclear weapons. My delegation reaffirms Nigeria's unwavering commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and to collective efforts that advance global peace and security.

13. I thank you all.