



STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

**AMBASSADOR JIMOH IBRAHIM, CFR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

IN NEW YORK

**AT THE
11TH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

27TH APRIL TO 22ND MAY 2026

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

Nigeria congratulates you on your assumption of the Presidency of this Eleventh Review Conference and assures you of its full support and cooperation. We align ourselves with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement and wish to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

2. This Review Conference is convened at a critical juncture, marked by deteriorating global security conditions, heightened geopolitical tensions, and increasing nuclear risks. The failure of previous Review Conferences to adopt a consensus outcome has undermined confidence in the Treaty's review process. We must therefore redouble our collective efforts to ensure a substantive, balanced, and forward-looking outcome.

Mr. President,

3. Nigeria reiterates that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority of the Treaty and the only credible pathway to achieving global peace and security. The continued reliance on nuclear deterrence neither guarantees security nor stability; rather, it perpetuates risks and undermines international peace.

4. We therefore call on Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to fully implement their obligations under Article VI through time-bound, transparent, verifiable, and irreversible disarmament measures. The modernization and qualitative improvement of nuclear arsenals must cease, and genuine political will must be demonstrated to achieve the total elimination of these weapons.

5. Nigeria stresses that the slow pace of disarmament continues to exacerbate global insecurity, particularly for Non-Nuclear-Weapon States. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated.

6. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, Nigeria supports practical and immediate risk reduction measures, including de-alerting of nuclear arsenals, adoption of No-First-Use doctrines and strengthening crisis communication mechanisms among nuclear-weapon States.

7. While these measures are essential, they must not substitute for disarmament. Rather, they should serve as interim steps to reduce the risk of miscalculation, accidental escalation, and catastrophic consequences.

8. Nigeria further emphasizes the importance of transparency, confidence-building measures, and structured reporting by nuclear-weapon States to enhance trust and accountability.

Mr. President,

9. Nigeria remains deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental. Such consequences would have devastating impacts on human health, the environment, and global development.

10. We reiterate that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to international law, including international humanitarian law. The total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against such catastrophic outcomes.

11. Nigeria reaffirms its strong commitment to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones as practical and effective measures towards global disarmament. In this regard, the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) remains a cornerstone of Africa's contribution to international peace and security.

12. We call for universal respect for all Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and support ongoing efforts to establish a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in line with the 1995 Resolution.

13. Nigeria supports the strengthening and universalization of the IAEA safeguards system, including full compliance with Articles I, II, and III of the Treaty.

14. We emphasize the importance of robust verification mechanisms, enhanced export controls, and strengthened international cooperation to prevent proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

15. Nigeria remains committed to nuclear security frameworks, including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

16. Nigeria reaffirms the inalienable right of all States Parties to develop and utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with Article IV of the Treaty.

17. We call for increased international cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building to enable developing countries to harness nuclear energy for energy security, healthcare, including cancer treatment, agricultural development and food security and water resource management and environmental sustainability.

18. Non-proliferation measures must not impede access to peaceful nuclear technologies, particularly for developing countries striving to achieve sustainable development.

19. Nigeria underscores the importance of complementary instruments, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which reinforces and strengthens the objectives of the NPT.

20. We also emphasize the urgency of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), and the provision of legally binding negative security assurances to Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

21. Nigeria further expresses concern over emerging risks, including the potential integration of artificial intelligence into nuclear weapons systems, and stresses the need to maintain full human control over such systems.

22. In conclusion, Nigeria remains unwavering in its commitment to the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and we continue to advocate for the balanced implementation of its three pillars.

23. As a responsible Non-Nuclear-Weapon State, Nigeria will continue to promote disarmament and non-proliferation, advocate equitable and non-discriminatory treaty implementation, serve as a bridge-builder between nuclear and non-nuclear States and link nuclear governance with global security and sustainable development.

24. Finally, **Mr. President**, the international community cannot afford another missed opportunity. The time for concrete, measurable, and irreversible progress toward a nuclear-weapon-free world is now.

I thank you.