



STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

**MAHMUD MOHAMMED LAWAL
MINISTER
PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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

CLUSTER II

MAY 2026

Please check against delivery

Mr Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you and the members of the Bureau on your election. Nigeria assures you of its full support and cooperation throughout the work of Main Committee II. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

2. Nigeria reaffirms the centrality of the non-proliferation pillar to the integrity and sustainability of the Treaty. The prevention of both horizontal and vertical proliferation remains indispensable to strengthening international peace and security and maintaining confidence in the NPT regime.

3. Nigeria underscores the pivotal role of nuclear-weapon-free zones as effective confidence-building measures and essential components of the global non-proliferation architecture. In this regard, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Treaty of Pelindaba, which stands as a testament to Africa's long-standing resolve to remain free of nuclear weapons.

Mr Chair,

4. The Pelindaba Treaty not only prohibits the acquisition, testing, and stationing of nuclear weapons across the African continent, but also serves as a vital shield against nuclear risks. Nigeria calls on regions yet to establish such arrangements to emulate this model, particularly in the Middle East, in line with the 1995 Resolution and ongoing United Nations processes aimed at establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

5. Nigeria expresses serious concern over the continued challenges to the non-proliferation regime, including nuclear weapon-sharing arrangements and extended deterrence practices. Such arrangements are inconsistent with the letter and spirit of Articles I and II of the Treaty and risk undermining its credibility and effectiveness.

6. In this regard, Nigeria calls on all States Parties to refrain from nuclear weapon-sharing under any circumstances, including within military alliances, and urges strict adherence to their non-proliferation obligations.

7. Nigeria is equally concerned about the ongoing modernization of nuclear arsenals, the expansion of stockpiles, and the development of new types of nuclear weapons and delivery systems. These trends constitute a form of vertical proliferation and run counter to the objectives of the Treaty.

Mr Chair,

8. Nigeria reiterates the importance of achieving the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a critical step towards halting the qualitative and quantitative development of nuclear weapons. Pending its entry into force, we call on all States to maintain moratoria on nuclear testing.

9. Nigeria also emphasizes the indispensable role of the International Atomic Energy Agency as the sole competent authority for verification and safeguards. We stress that the Agency's work must be conducted in strict accordance with its Statute and relevant safeguards agreements, while upholding the principle of impartiality.

10. At the same time, Nigeria reaffirms the inalienable right of all States Parties to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in conformity with Articles III and IV of the Treaty. The promotion of access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, including in health, agriculture, and energy, remains essential for sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

11. Nigeria underscores the need to strengthen safeguards implementation and promote universal adherence to comprehensive safeguards agreements as the legal standard under the Treaty. We also support enhanced international cooperation and capacity-building to assist developing countries in fulfilling their obligations.

12. Furthermore, Nigeria stresses that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons reinforce the urgency of preventing their proliferation in all its forms. The non-proliferation pillar must therefore be pursued in a balanced manner alongside credible progress on nuclear disarmament.

13. As we deliberate under Main Committee II, Nigeria calls for renewed political will, strict compliance with Treaty obligations, and strengthened multilateral cooperation to address emerging proliferation challenges.

14. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, Nigeria remains fully committed to working constructively with all delegations towards a balanced, credible, and action-oriented outcome that reinforces the non-proliferation regime while advancing the broader objectives of the Treaty.

I thank you for your attention.