

**STATEMENT**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**  
**BY**  
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**MINISTER**  
**PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**ON**  
**MAIN COMMITTEE I**  
**AT THE**  
**THE 11<sup>TH</sup> REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE**  
**TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR**  
**WEAPONS (REVCON 2026)**

**NEW YORK, 27 APRIL – 22 MAY 2026**

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**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group.
2. The Group aligns itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Indonesia and wishes to make the following remarks on this cluster. The Group takes the floor at a moment of heightened concern for the integrity of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and underscores the responsibility of this Conference to deliver concrete, balanced and measurable outcomes across all three pillars of the Treaty.
3. The total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. In this context, the Group reiterates the urgent need for our planet to be free of nuclear weapons, as their presence is associated with catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences, and constitutes a threat to global peace and the future survival of humanity.
4. The African Group notes with concern the challenging environment acknowledged by the President in his opening remarks and hopes that this Conference would serve as an opportunity to strengthen the NPT by implementing its three pillars in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner and to address the persistent deficit in implementation of the Treaty's nuclear disarmament pillar. The Group remains committed to promoting the overall objectives of the Treaty and calls on the nuclear weapon States, to fulfil their legal obligations and political commitments, and their irrevocable undertakings under Article VI of the NPT by pursuing the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay or preconditions such as the fallible and obsolete concepts of deterrence and strategic stability.

5- Africa supports the principle of complete, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament, as the utmost prerequisite for maintaining international peace and security. It is in this spirit that the African Group reaffirms its unwavering support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force on 22 January 2021 and continues to attract growing adherence from the international community. The African Group stresses that the TPNW does not in any way undermine the NPT but rather complements and strengthens the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, with the NPT as its cornerstone. The Group urges all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the TPNW, and calls upon all members of the international community, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to engage constructively with this instrument as an expression of the global imperative to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

**Mr. Chair,**

6. The Group calls upon nuclear weapon States to take urgent measures to reduce and eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security doctrines, concepts and policies. The African Group continues to be deeply concerned with nuclear sharing and extended nuclear and forward deterrence arrangements and calls for their termination due to their incompatibility with the letter and spirit of the NPT. The Group supports enhanced transparency and accountability by nuclear weapon states on the implementation of obligations under Article VI and their respective commitments agreed at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, through the submission of systematic, standardized and detailed reports subject to interactive discussions under Main Committee I of this Conference. The Group further calls for the outcomes of this Conference to establish a robust and time-bound framework for accountability on nuclear disarmament commitments.

7. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the African Group continues to stress that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones constitutes

an important measure towards achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. Thus, the Group wishes to re-state the proud position of Africa as a nuclear weapon free zone, through the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba on 15 July 2009. The Group seizes this opportunity to call on all Member States to support efforts to replicate this measure in the remaining parts of the world, especially in the Middle East.

8. The Group unequivocally supports the call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and continues to express deep concern at the protracted failure to fulfil long-standing commitments and obligations arising from the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the region and which constitutes an integral part of the basis which enabled the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The Group reaffirms its support for the implementation of the 1995 resolution and for its validity until its objectives are achieved. In this context, the Group reaffirms its full support for the United Nations conference process established pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Decision 73/546 and calls upon all States and relevant parties to participate, engage constructively, sustain the momentum achieved, and demonstrate the political will necessary to advance this vital objective.

**Mr. Chair,**

9. The Group highlights the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), especially in view of pronouncements to resume testing of nuclear weapons. The Group restates that such testing would be contrary not only to the CTBT but also the NPT. The Group therefore calls upon nuclear-weapon States and those States that are yet to accede to the NPT to undertake their special responsibility towards the entry into force of the Treaty pursuant to Action 10 of the 2010 Action Plan. The Group strongly supports a reaffirmation by

Nuclear Weapon States to continue to adhere to a moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the CTBT and achieving its universality.

10. The African Group wishes to emphasise humanitarian considerations in the context of all deliberations on nuclear weapons and calls on all States, particularly nuclear weapons States, to take into consideration, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons on human survival and health, the environment and vital economic resources among others, and to take necessary measures aimed at renouncing these weapons in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. Pending the total elimination of their nuclear weapons, Nuclear Weapon States should provide legally binding assurances of no-first-use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances.

11. Finally, Mr Chair, it is essential that all non-nuclear-weapon States should be provided with universal, effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory , irrevocable and legally binding assurance, by all nuclear weapon States, against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, and that nuclear weapon States ratify the additional protocols to the Treaties establishing nuclear weapon zones and withdraw their reservations and interpretative declarations thereto. The Group therefore recalls and underscores the importance of the General Assembly resolution 80/49, on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations including through the Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission. As an integral part of the multilateral disarmament architecture, the Group calls for sustained and meaningful dialogue throughout this Conference and looks forward to concrete, action-oriented outcomes that advance the cause of peace and security for all.

12. The African Group reiterates its position that confidence building, and nuclear risk reduction measures are not a substitute to nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Group expresses its deep concern with any

attempt to integrate artificial intelligence applications into the command, control or management of nuclear weapons and explosive devices. Pending the total elimination of these weapons, States must maintain full and effective human control over nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. In this regard, the Group calls upon this Conference to address the intersection of emerging technologies and nuclear risk as a matter of urgency, and to include appropriate language in the final document reflecting the imperative of human oversight in all nuclear decision-making processes.

13. I thank you.