

STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (3MSP) TO  
THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
(TPNW)

NEW YORK, FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

**Mr. President,**

At the onset, Mr. President, allow me to express my delegation's appreciation on your stewardship of this meeting and to assure you and your team of Nigeria's continued cooperation and support. This is the third meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and what this means is that TPNW has come to stay.

2. This has further demonstrated that the commitment and tireless efforts of all those countries along with Nigeria who robustly participated at the negotiations of TPNW was never in vain. It has also shown that multilateralism is highly pivotal to global peace and security. On this note, Nigeria reaffirms its full support to the adoption of the First and second Meetings of States Parties to the TPNW and renews its commitment to the declarations and decisions therein.

**Mr. President,**

3. The continued existence of nuclear weapons is a huge challenge to international peace and security considering the grave and existential risk these dangerous weapons pose to the human race. Nigeria, therefore, reaffirms its unwavering determination and commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

4. The adoption of the Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a welcome development, in the overall consideration that it would further complement NPT to achieve its objectives. My delegation remains proud of its active participation in the processes that led to this milestone achievement, as well as being one of the first countries to sign and ratify the treaty. Nigeria, therefore, seizes this opportunity to commend countries that have ratified the treaty, while calling on all member States yet to accede to the treaty to do so without further delay. TPNW, being a major instrument negotiated to ensure a nuclear-free world. My delegation urges all Nuclear Weapons States to quickly accede to it and halt all nuclear weapon tests or refinement, including their research and re-development.

5. My delegation, in line with Articles 1 and 5, renews its commitments towards safety, security and safeguards in the application of nuclear materials. Nigeria has also fulfilled and its obligations, while implementing all the measures on the prohibition of nuclear weapons with the enactment of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act CAP No. 142 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. The ACT establishes, amongst others, the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) and gives it responsibility to perform all necessary functions that will enable Nigeria to meet its national and international Safety, Security and Safeguards

obligations in the application of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation.

6. It is important to stress that Nigeria has a regulatory control programme which comprises authorization, regulations and guides, inspection and oversight functions, emergency planning and response. The **NNRA** in collaboration with the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) has reviewed the Act that culminated into a bill on Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards in the country.

**Mr. President,**

7. My delegation wishes to reiterate its concern over the resistance and lack of political will by Nuclear-Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their legal obligations and undertakings under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other relevant agreed outcomes of NPT Review Conferences. Nigeria, therefore, calls on all Nuclear Weapons States to implement all agreed measures towards achieving total elimination of nuclear weapons.

8. My delegation also calls on all states, particularly Nuclear-Weapons States, to take into consideration the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons on human health, the environment, and vital economic resources among others. They should take necessary measures and steps aimed towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

9. Africa had long acknowledged the existential threat nuclear weapons posed to human existence. It was on this basis that African countries collectively adopted the Pelindaba Treaty, which prohibited the acquisition of nuclear weapons for military purposes and declared Africa a nuclear-weapons-free zone. Nigeria, as a state party to the treaty remains committed to it.

**Mr. President,**

10. On Universalization, Nigeria has been consistent with Article 12 of the TPNW and wishes to express its continued commitment to the principle of universalisation. Nigeria wishes to renew its call for accelerating nuclear disarmament and bringing under a safeguarded regime the activities of non-nuclear weapons States who are yet to sign and ratify the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguard Agreements (CSA).

11. Nigeria underscores the importance of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and has embraced, together with several developing economies, nuclear technology to meet developmental ambitions and needs in agriculture, power generation, water conservation and human and animal health, especially as it has to do with treatment of human cancer. In this context, Nigeria commends the continued efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), particularly its role in

monitoring and inspecting nuclear facilities. My delegation urges all member States to apply the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in their nuclear activities, to accelerate a nuclear-weapon-free world. We, therefore, join the call for stringent measures on import/export control of radioactive materials and conversion of highly enriched uranium used in research reactors to low enriched uranium within the shortest possible time. Nigeria also wishes to remind States to uphold their responsibilities on compliance and adherence to all frameworks and measures, including the NPT, CTBT and the Conference on Disarmament.

**Mr. President,**

12. Our position, in a nutshell, is that nuclear weapons being an existential threat, are too important to be left to Nuclear Weapon States alone. We are all stakeholders in the nuclear conversation and all our voices need to be heard. At this 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of State Parties, we should begin to set the scene for the first Review Conference of the TPNW and to strengthen this major platform for multilateral disarmament .

13. In conclusion, Nigeria wishes to reiterate its full support for Mr. President and call for the implementation and enforcement of all treaties on the elimination of nuclear weapons and reassures of her continued support for a world free of nuclear weapons. Nigeria is ready to work with all countries to achieve this end.

13. I thank you all.