

**NIGERIAN STATEMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, OSLO, NORWAY,
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Madam Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The Nigerian delegation commends the Government of Norway for this august conference, which is the first of its kind, to discuss the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Since yesterday, we have heard quite a number of disturbing, alarming, troubling and gory tales of nuclear weapons, which I believe all the participants here today will adequately report back to their respective capitals on the danger awaiting us if we do not act in the right direction. Such gory tales will be difficult to erase from one's memory.

The Nigerian delegation would therefore like to join the international community in echoing its voice to the wider and popular condemnation of nuclear weapons. As it has been said over and over again, there is no medical or health service from any part of the world that would be capable, I repeat capable of dealing adequately with the number of victims in a situation of nuclear detonation from even a single 1-megaton bomb. In the light of this, the best method of preparedness is the prevention of the occurrence of such explosion.

The increasing threats posed by the proliferation of weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) coupled with the increased numbers of terrorist cells around the globe, has made it imperative for the countries of the world to advance the course of nuclear disarmament now. In our view, nuclear weapons constitute the biggest threats to humanity. It is for this reason that Nigeria has always argued that the most effective and credible guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons lies in their total elimination from the surface of the earth. The continued existence of nuclear weapons on the surface of the earth do not necessarily guarantee security, but rather affirms the tendency or risks of their future use either intentional or accidental, and which could lead to serious humanitarian catastrophe and a threat to global peace and survival of the human race.

Madam chairperson,

We had mentioned at the UN First Committee proceedings last year (2012) that, nuclear weapons offer no credible defence against other adversaries possessing similar weapons. They only pose an existential threat to those who do not possess them at all, as such compliance with the NPT should go hand in hand with the willingness of the nuclear weapons states to disarm and end the possession of these heinous weapons.

We therefore call on all participants to please keep the tempo of the momentum set here in Oslo high and to never relent in our efforts towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons. We are very optimistic that we will get there with the support of everyone here today.

I thank you.
