

**COMMENTS BY NIGERIA ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AT THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS INFORMAL
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING, 18 APRIL 2012**

Coordinators, since this is the first time the Nigerian delegation is taking the floor during this intersessional meeting, please allow me to quickly appreciate the good work of Lebanon in the hosting of the 2nd Meeting of States Parties in Beirut and for their Presidency. Let me also appreciate the Coordinators, organisers and all others involved for ~~the~~ their diligence and hard work in bringing this meeting to this satisfactory point.

Nigeria signed up to this Convention, ^{from inception} ~~as early~~, believing in the humanitarian consequences of these heinous weapons. Nigeria is taking steps to actualise the ratification of the treaty in good time, in order that we will be in a position to call upon or encourage other fellow African countries to do same. In that wise, we appreciate the collaborative efforts of the 1540 Committee in providing guidance.

Coordinators, there is no doubt that Nigeria has stockpiles of the British-produced BL-755 cluster bombs in our armouries. However, as stated earlier and believing in the principles of a world free of the weapons of mass disability and mass destruction, the Government, in its bid to ensure compliance with the stockpile destruction obligations, has directed that steps be taken to destroy excess stockpiles of these cluster bombs, while retaining the approved quantity for training purposes. These are all follow-up steps to achieve ratification.

In this wise, therefore, Nigeria will make bold to call on experts, donor countries and organisations to support these efforts at ensuring the destruction of these bombs in our arsenals. We would also pledge to work with fellow African countries to be able to achieve full compliance in the continent. As a matter of fact, we ~~would~~ ^{intend to} make our presence felt in the Accra, Ghana Conference.

Finally, Coordinators, I wish to state that it in the overall interest of Nigeria, as a country, the West African sub-region and Africa, in general to ensure that we rid the world of weapons that have

indiscriminate effects on, particularly, the civil populace and bring an end to the suffering that they cause.

I thank you for your attention.