

Check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION,
DR UMUNNA H. ORJIAKO, AMB. PERM REP OF NIGERIA TO THE UN
OFFICE AND OTHER INTL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA
AT THE THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (3MSP) TO THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)**

OSLO, NORWAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We also thank the government of Norway for its hospitality and for the excellent arrangements put in place for this important meeting.

It is common knowledge that cluster munitions kill, maim and render the human environment uninhabitable, during conflicts and long after conflicts have ended. These weapons impede or disrupt socio-economic activities in the affected areas by rendering arable land dangerous for farming or turning them into mine fields. The most devastating and indiscriminate effects of these weapons is the unacceptable harm caused, on civilian populations. The victims who survive are either handicapped for life or made helpless and unable to do things normally.

Mr. President,

In recognition of the need to join global efforts to prevent the grave humanitarian consequences of these destructive weapons, Nigeria became a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2009. Though, we are yet to ratify the convention, I am glad to inform you that the Federal Government of Nigerian has already started urgent consultations with relevant stakeholders in order to expedite ratification of the convention in the nearest future.

Mr. President,

We are fully committed to the implementation of the provisions of the CCM in order to rid the world of these weapons of mass disability and bring an end to the suffering they cause to innocent civilians. Nigeria considers the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a landmark treaty that focuses on, and promotes international humanitarian law through its preventive role in protecting civilians against danger. The achievements recorded so far have shown the willingness and commitment of the international community to totally eradicate these weapons.

In this regard, Nigeria notes with satisfaction, the progress recorded in the number of ratifications and expansion in membership of the Convention. Nigeria is pleased with its endorsement of the Accra Universalization Action Plan and encourages states parties and signatories to redouble their efforts in the area of universalisation.

On the issue of Stockpiles, we had reported during the April 2012 informal Intersessional Meeting to have stockpiles of the British-made BL-755 cluster bombs in our armoury, and had called on experts, international partners and organisations to provide technical assistance and support in order to ensure compliance with stockpiles destruction obligations of these cluster bombs. We would therefore like to use this opportunity to renew our request for the above mentioned assistance.

Mr. President,

Nigeria is convinced that for the full humanitarian effects of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be effectively realised, the issue of victim assistance should be considered and given the necessary attention it deserves. Victims of cluster munitions should therefore be adequately provided with age and gender-sensitive assistance, medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as prescribed in article 5 of the convention.

It is a matter of great concern to us that most of the countries that are being affected by cluster munitions are the developing countries, where numerous socio-economic and developmental challenges abound, hence the need for strengthening

international cooperation and assistance among states so as to achieve the objectives of the convention.

Mr. President,

Nigeria wishes to reiterate the inaccuracy of the statement made by the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor on its 2011 report on Nigeria, to the effect that Sierra-Leone has said that Nigerian peacekeepers under the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) used cluster munitions in Sierra-Leone in 1997. This statement is wrong and incorrect. Nigeria wishes to clarify once again, that ECOMOG is a Regional peacekeeping initiative, and not a Nigerian national body. The regional body, ECOWAS, of which Nigeria is part, among others, must be given due credit for resolving the Sierra-Leonean crisis at huge cost to itself in terms of lives and treasure lost. We insist therefore, that the Landmine and Cluster Munitions Monitor is honour-bound to review and correct the erroneous statement.

Finally Mr. President, Nigeria looks forward to a fruitful and successful meeting ahead of us this week, and we use this occasion to assure you of our support and cooperation as you lead us in our deliberations.

I thank you
