

**STATEMENT OF NIGERIA
AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (4MSP) TO THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, 10 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation congratulates you on your election as the President of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (4MSP CCM). Your election confirms the confidence States Parties have in you to successfully steer the proceedings of this important meeting. We thank the government of Zambia for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this timely meeting convened in our continent. It goes to show the important role Zambia has been playing towards achieving total elimination of cluster munitions in all countries and we commend you for this effort.

Mr. President,

The killing, maiming and rendering of the environment uninhabitable by cluster Munitions long after conflict has ended, and coupled with the deep trauma caused on survivors/victims who are either handicapped for life or made helpless, compelled Nigeria to sign up to the Convention in 2009. This is in line with our disarmament objectives and support for global efforts to prevent the grave humanitarian consequences of these and other indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction.

The Nigerian delegation notes with satisfaction the increase in the number of ratifications and accessions to the Convention. This increment is as a result of the recognition of unacceptably high and indiscriminate suffering these weapons have caused to civilian populations. The convention, through its preventive role of protecting civilians against danger, plays a very vital role in promoting international humanitarian law (IHL). Let me therefore assure this august body that the Federal

Government of Nigeria is taking every necessary step to expedite ratification of this convention in order to join other State Parties in ensuring the full attainment of its objectives.

Mr. President,

To achieve total elimination of Cluster bombs from the surface of the earth, more attention needs to be given to universalization efforts. We therefore use this opportunity to commend the efforts of those States Parties and stakeholders that are working assiduously towards achieving universalization. In the same vein, we call on all States that are not yet party or signatory to the convention to sign up with minimum delay. State Parties can assist in this process by engaging non-signatory States at the highest level of authority and encouraging them to sign up. The Nigerian delegation is very optimistic that if all States Parties engage themselves in this effort of universalising the CCM, a lot more countries will be on board before the end of this decade.

Mr. President,

The CCM has recorded lots of achievements within few years of existence. However, for the full humanitarian effects of the convention to be realised, the issues of victim assistance and international cooperation/assistance among States need to be strengthened. It bears emphasis to state that most of the victims of these weapons are from the developing countries, where the various Governments are seriously challenged by numerous socio-economic and developmental problems, and diminishing resources to address them. They need assistance to confront these challenges as well as the additional ones posed by cluster munitions. To this end, the Nigerian delegation calls on States Parties to redouble their efforts in strengthening international cooperation and assistance to needy countries, so as to achieve the objectives of the CCM.

Mr. President,

My delegation looks forward to a fruitful meeting ahead of us this week. Let me once again, use this occasion to assure you of our support and cooperation as you lead us in deliberations.

I thank you
