



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA ON BEHALF OF THE
AFRICAN GROUP DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE AT THE
ELEVENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO CONVENTION
ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**11 TO 14 SEPTEMBER, 2023
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED DURING THE 11 MSP OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Mr President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). We would like to also congratulate Ms Pamela Moraga on her appointment as the ISU Director and wish her success in the fulfilment of her role.

Mr. President,

Cognizant that the African continent is plagued by several challenges including, but not limited to: inadequate health care, lack of financial, technological and human-resource capacities, the African Group is of the view that this Convention addresses the negative humanitarian effects of cluster munitions. It is in this context that I wish to assure you of the unwavering commitment of the Group to the ideals, ethos and principles of the Convention.

Mr President,

The decrease in the rate of ratifications and accessions to the convention in recent time is most concerning. Similarly, the lack of progress on the Universalisation of the Convention calls for a deep reflection. The African region represents a large part of UN Member States and plays a vital role in achieving the universalization goal. In this regard, the Group wishes to warmly congratulate South Sudan on its accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), as well as Nigeria, for ratifying the treaty earlier this year. On this note, we commend the commitment demonstrated by these two states, as well

as all CCM States Parties; to global peace and security, particularly in their strident opposition to the use of weapons that cause enormous suffering and harm to innocent people.

Mr. President,

The African Group takes copious note of the fact that numerous Member States are faced with the nuances associated with implementation and universalization under this convention. We are also mindful that many States are still confronted by the problems of contamination of cluster munitions remnants. This contamination not only results in injury and death, but also comes with a wide range of socio-economic impacts, such as the displacement of people and hampering of economic activities and livelihood. It is important, therefore, that we continue to condemn the use of cluster munitions as a weapon of war.

Mr President,

African communities have suffered from illicit trade in conventional weapons on the continent. A large portion of productive land areas across Africa have been contaminated by land mines to various degrees, while many are still confronted by the challenges posed to development and human security by such contamination years after conflicts have ended.

We are mindful that the influx of weapons and ammunition into any armed conflict pose a significant threat to international and regional peace, security and stability, years after the conflict has ended. The African Group therefore wishes to underscore the need for concrete efforts towards preventing and eradicating the illicit trade in

conventional arms and preventing their diversion. In this context the African Group welcomes the statement issued on 11 July, 2023 by the President of the 11 MSP on the decision of a non-member State to the Convention to supply a Member State with cluster munitions. The African Group is of the view that this singular act further perpetuates the potential risks posed by cluster munitions and therefore advocates for universal adherence to the Convention's provisions.

Mr President,

Victim assistance remains a great concern to Africa, particularly to states with numerous cluster-munition victims. We therefore call upon States Parties to redouble efforts to report on victim-assistance programs, to ensure that victims are not forgotten. Africa has largely suffered huge casualties brought on by the use of cluster munitions. It is therefore important to make concerted efforts to rid the continent of these weapons and pave the way for development. Measures must also be put in place to curb human suffering and prevent further contamination that adds to the number of victims.

In concluding, Mr President,

As part of our commitment to multilateralism and rules-based international order, the African Group will remain committed to the full implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, while re-affirming our commitment to fully implement the provisions of the Convention. We remain steadfast and committed to the norms established by this Convention and in fulfilling its obligations. Thank you