



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT

AT THE

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER
MUNITIONS**

from

11 – 14 SEPTEMBER, 2023

**Geneva,
Switzerland**

Thank you for giving Nigeria the floor.

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the Government and good people of Nigeria, to congratulate you, His Excellency, **Ambassador Abdulkarim Hashim Mustafa**, on your assumption of the role of Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of State Parties (11MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The delegation of Nigeria wishes to assure you of its full support, considering your expertise and vast experience to steer our deliberations to concrete outcomes.

The delegation of Nigeria wishes to further seize this opportunity to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Mexico, H.E **Ambassador Francisca MÉNDEZ ESCOBAR**, as the President-designate of the 12th Meeting of States Parties and to inform that Nigeria looks forward to a robust working relation with her Team. Similarly, the delegation of Nigeria extends warm appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit for the hard work and exertions in the build up to the 11MSP.

Mr. President,

A significant portion of the global population continues to experience the tragic consequences of cluster munitions. The deployment of these weapons, to a large extent, undermines the peaceful existence of innocent people. Against this backdrop, unacceptable humanitarian and socio-economic consequences have arisen globally, including internal displacement, strife, as well as numerous deaths. On this note, my country remains committed to the spirit and guiding principles of the Convention, as an international instrument that prohibits all use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions.

Mr. President

Nigeria's deep concerns over; and unalloyed commitment to rid the world of the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of cluster munitions, was reasonably demonstrated by our signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on June 12, 2009. In furtherance of this commitment, Nigeria ratified the Convention in February, 2023 making our country the 111th State Party to the Convention. In this regard, let me reiterate the full commitment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to commence consultations to facilitate the domestication of the Convention in a timely manner.

Mr. President,

Allow me, to most pointedly reiterate the importance of the universalization of the Convention, as a major pathway to fostering measures to practically eradicate the scourge of cluster munitions. In relation to this concern, Nigeria, through its various activities, has remained engaged on the universalization of the Treaty, particularly in promoting effective sensitization activities to ensure awareness of the threats posed by these deadly weapons and the need for their eradication globally. To this end, Nigeria co-hosted the Regional Workshop on the Universalization of the CCM in Abuja together with the governments of the United Kingdom and Switzerland in Nigeria in March, 2022. We therefore urge States not yet party to the Convention, to consider signing and ratifying it without further delay.

Mr. President,

My delegation pays particular attention to the urgent need to encourage the promotion of victim assistance and international cooperation to further advance the cause of the implementation and universalization of the Treaty. On this note, we wish to underscore the importance of assessing domestic needs and the development of national policies in the aforementioned areas. Permit me therefore to inform you that, having ratified this Convention, Nigeria seeks to regularly engage in consultations, in line with established principles, to develop a National Action Plan as we work assiduously to incorporate relevant guidelines and good practices on these two key areas.

Mr. President,

Cognizant that Nigeria is not a manufacturer or importer of cluster munitions, let me assure you that we have no intention to commence any activity in relation to the use, transfer or stockpiling of these deadly weapons. We therefore remain fully committed to dialogue to ensure that the use of these weapons and their far-reaching negative effects remain at minimal to zero levels.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

6. My delegation wishes to underscore the importance of cooperation to confront the humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm caused to civilians by cluster munitions. On this note, it is important to stress that all outcomes at this meeting should reflect the interests of vulnerable people, especially, women and children, as they continue to suffer from the negative and far-reaching impacts of cluster munitions. Nigeria will continue to work closely with its international partners in consolidating the gains made in sustaining peace and development by supporting the ideals of the CCM.

I thank you for your attention.