



STATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AT THE

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

10 – 13 SEPTEMBER, 2024

**Geneva,
Switzerland**

Thank you for giving Nigeria the floor.

Nigeria aligns with statement delivered by Niger on behalf of the African group.

We also join other colleagues in conveying condolences to the delegation of Peru on the passing of Her Excellency, Ambassador Diaz.

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to congratulate you, H.E Excellency, **Ambassador Mendez Escobar, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office in Geneva**, on your assumption of the role of President of the Twelfth Meeting of State Parties (12MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). My delegation assures you of its full support as we rely on your guidance to steer our work in the coming days.

2. I also wish to seize this opportunity to extend a warm appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit ably headed by Pamela Moraga, for all their hard work in the build up to the 12MSP.

Madam President,

3. There is no gainsaying the fact that the continuous existence of cluster munitions poses a significant threat to the existence of civilian populations. The manufacturing, transfer, and stockpiling of these heinous devices have largely affected global populations, as their continued deployment and usage remains on the rise. The unacceptable humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of these weapons remain a threat to innocent civilians as scores of deaths continue to be recorded globally, including internal displacement and strife. In this regard, Nigeria reiterates its commitment to the spirit and guiding principles of the Convention, as an international instrument that prohibits all use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions wherever they exist.

Madam President

4. Nigeria became the 111th State Party to the Convention on 28th February, 2023 as a demonstration of our commitment to the principles of the Convention. Permit me to inform that, through its focal ministry, Nigeria has been working to secure the required funding to domesticate and fully implement the Convention, including its incorporation into its Annual Appropriation amidst challenges posed by global recession and other competing needs in the country.

Madam President,

5. Nigeria's aspiration within the context of the Convention is hinged on its full implementation and universalization as a means to create a pathway to foster measures to practically eradicate the scourge of cluster munitions globally. In particular, my delegation wishes to urge States Parties to continue to prioritize victim assistance and international cooperation to further advance the cause of the implementation and universalization of the Convention.

6. Furthermore, we wish to reiterate the importance of the fulfilment of obligations to the Convention, including in the area of reporting and payment of assessed contributions. Permit me to inform that as of today, Nigeria is up to date with her reporting and financial obligations to the Convention for FY 2024.

Madam President,

7. Allow me to place on record that Nigeria is not a manufacturer or importer of cluster munitions and has no intentions of doing so in the future. While our commitment to this resolve is deeply rooted in our concern for humanity, we remain open to concrete dialogue to ensure that the use of cluster munitions and their far-reaching negative impacts are fully eradicated. On this note, we extend warm congratulations to South Africa and Peru on completing the clearance of cluster munitions from their territories.

In conclusion, Madam President,

8. My delegation wishes to underscore the need for our deliberations in the coming days to reflect the interests of vulnerable people, including, men, women and children, as they continue to suffer from the negative impacts of cluster munitions. Our commitment to the ideals of the Convention remains firm and we are open to engage with all States Parties including international partners to actualize the goals of the Convention.

I thank you for your attention.