



STATEMENT BY MRS BINTA A.BELLO, HEAD OF NIGERIAN DELEGATION, AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES (CSP-19) IN THE HAGUE ON 2ND, DECEMBER, 2014

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I congratulate you, as you preside over the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Nigerian delegation. I also wish to extend our commendation to the out-going Chairperson, H.E. Dr. Saad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq to the OPCW for his wise leadership of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties.

2. The Nigerian delegation associates itself with the Statements read on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China and the

African Group by H.E. S. A. Araghchi of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H. E. Vusi Bruce Koloane, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa respectively.

Madam Chairperson,

3. Nigeria appreciates the efforts made by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to carry its work forward and commends the Director General, H. E. Ahmet Uzumcu for his focussed leadership of the organisation. We also commend the Technical Secretariat for its continued support to the States Parties.

4. We further applaud the efforts of those States Parties who took steps to destroy chemical weapons in their possession as envisaged in the Chemical Weapons Convention. We would like to utilize this opportunity to urge all Possessor States who are yet to do so, to endeavour to destroy those weapons in their possession, as this would help build a better and safer world.

Madam Chairperson,

5. A major highlight of our activities, which has increased prospects of improved security in the Middle East, is the removal of chemical weapons and equipment in the Syrian Arab Republic. This is an important and credible step taken by Syria and we commend the country as well as international partners who contributed to this positive development. It is our sincere hope that in the same spirit, we all, working in concert, will bring a closure to the work of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM). We dare say that trust, respect and cooperation are critical elements in the process.

Madam Chairperson,

6. Nigeria remains firm and resolute in its commitment to the implementation of her obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The National Authority on Chemical and Biological Weapons Convention has been ensuring that relevant stakeholders are sensitized of the importance of formulating safety measures in handling sensitive materials. We recognise the need to raise public awareness of the provisions of the Convention and are working to achieve this goal.

Madam Chairperson,

7. As we indicated in some previous meetings of the OPCW, it is important that States Parties who do not have sufficient capacity to implement the provisions of the Convention are provided the necessary technical assistance and support which will help to ensure that we all stand together and work in the same direction, as we seek to guarantee our collective security.

8. Nigeria supports all efforts towards enhancing national capacities particularly in Africa. It is in this context that we reiterate our firm conviction on the importance of the Africa Programme, which continues to enjoy our full support. We urge the Director General and the Technical Secretariat to continue to give the programme the priority attention it deserves. It would also require the continued support and partnership of the international community especially the more endowed members.

9. In furtherance of her commitment and obligations to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Nigeria's parliament is in the process of passing into law the Chemical Weapons Bill, having successfully passed the First and Second Readings as well as the

successful conduct of the Public Hearing on the Bill. It is envisaged that the domestication of the CWC would be achieved very shortly.

Madam Chairperson,

10. Nigeria appreciates the support and cooperation of all delegations to the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T). The importance of this work cannot be overstated, considering the surge in the activities of terrorist groups across the globe. It is satisfying that much progress has been made and the credit goes to all participating delegations. We believe, that with the continued support of all delegations, we will certainly achieve the set goals.

This document should be taken as an official statement of the Nigerian delegation.

Thank you.