

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT AT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Thank you for giving Nigeria the Floor.

As my delegation takes the floor for the first time during these inter-sessional meetings, allow me, Chairman, to congratulate you on your leadership role. We trust in your able hands to steer our work with precision, and you can count on our support throughout the process.

Mr Chair,

The use of cluster munitions continues to pose a major source of concern to my delegation. As you may already be aware, the use of these weapons continue to hamper development and threaten human lives and well-being in the Northern region of Nigeria largely due to activities of non-state actors who continue to wreak havoc while leaving countless casualties in their wake. With no clear end in sight, my delegation welcomes support of member states to the CCM to tackle this menace. The humanitarian consequences of these weapons in West Africa, and the Northern part of Nigeria remains a serious concern that requires immediate attention. Scores of casualties, and damage to property and means of livelihood continue to be recorded.

Chair,

In March 2022, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Africa Regional Universalization Workshop took place in Abuja, Nigeria. The workshop was co-hosted by the governments of the United Kingdom, Nigeria and Switzerland, with the organizational support of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). The workshop provided a viable platform for states yet to join the Convention to share the perceived obstacles and challenges faced in joining the CCM. They also provided updates on the status of their national ratification objectives with a view to exploring possible solutions to the challenges identified. The workshop also provided CCM States Parties the opportunity to share their experiences in joining and subsequently implementing the Convention. On this note, my delegation's unwavering support for the universalization of the convention is predicated on the need for global cooperation

amongst state members to ensure the total eradication of these heinous weapons.

Chair,

Only through global cooperation, and ultimately, universalization of the convention, can we fully actualize our goal in ensuring that these weapons are fully eradicated. We urge states who are yet to become parties to the convention to do so without delay in order to promote and eventually achieve a world free of cluster munitions, as well as a world free from casualties of the use of such weapons. My delegation will continue to ensure that strident efforts, through concrete political will, shall be employed in mitigating the effects of these weapons in our affected regions.

Finally, I reiterate my delegation's support for the convention while we welcome constructive dialogue in line with fulfilling the mandate of the convention.

I thank you.