



**STATEMENT BY H. E. DR (MRS.) NIMOTA N. AKANBI, OON, AMBASSADOR
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT THE
SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

THE HAGUE, 7th – 10th JULY, 2015.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Nigerian Delegation is pleased to welcome Your Excellency, Mr. Francesco Azzarello, to the Chair of the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Executive Council (EC-79). We wish to assure you of our support and express our confidence in your abilities to lead this Session to a satisfactory conclusion.

2. My delegation further wishes to express appreciation to the Director-General (DG) of the OPCW, for updating us on progress made by the Organisation in carrying out its mandate. In this regard, we wish to commend him and the Technical Secretariat (TS) for their steadfast commitment to duty.

3. Nigeria aligns itself to the Statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency, Dr. Alireza Jahangiri. We also wish to associate ourselves with the Statement made on behalf of the African Group by the South African Ambassador, His Excellency, Mr. Vusi Bruce Koloane. We would however, wish to make a few points in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Nigeria remains fully committed to the principles underpinning the Convention and the work of the OPCW. In particular, we welcome: the issues of Universality; the Programme for Africa; implementation of Article X and its provisions relating to assistance and protection against chemical weapons, the effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI; and OPCW's valuable contribution in the fight against terrorism within the ambit of the objectives of the CWC. We see continued engagement on the issues as essential to realizing our common objectives.

5. On the programmes and activities related to Education and Outreach, my delegation welcomes the current planned activities and urge for diligent steps by the Technical Secretariat to ensure their full implementation. We also take note of the Technical Secretariat's paper "The OPCW in 2025: Ensuring a World Free of Chemical Weapons", which we consider as a good basis for discussions. We call for inclusive and sustained dialogue on the paper.

6. My delegation also reiterates full support to the total elimination of all chemical weapons under strict and effective international control, under the shortest possible time and in accordance with the Convention. In this

connection, we urge all possessor States Parties to undertake the total destruction of their chemical weapon stockpiles.

7. We are particularly concerned with the prospects of these weapons falling into the hands of non-State actors. In this regard, we urge for concerted efforts to prevent access to these weapons by non-State actors as well as articulation of measures to respond to the threat in addition to mitigating its effect on human health, the environment and the economy. We consider the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism essential in realizing this objective.

8. In concluding, we would like to encourage all States Parties to continue to seek consensus in the search for solutions to the challenges confronting the OPCW and the entire globe.

9. I should request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Executive Council.