



**STATEMENT BY MRS. GRACE CHIA-SANI, CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES OF THE EMBASSY OF NIGERIA AT THE
TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
STATES PARTIES OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW), THE
HAGUE, 30th NOVEMBER – 04th, DECEMBER, 2015**

Mr. Chairperson,

It is with pleasure that the Nigerian Delegation congratulates you, on your election as the Chairperson of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-20) and express our confidence in your ability to steer this Session to a satisfactory outcome.

2. My delegation wishes to align itself with the Statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, by His Excellency, Ambassador Alireza JAHANGIRI of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also associate ourselves with the Statement made on behalf

of the African Group, by His Excellency, Mr. Vusi Bruce Koloane, Ambassador of South Africa.

3. Nigeria commends the Director-General (DG) of the OPCW, for his informative Statement on the progress made by the Organisation on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this regard, we thank him and the Technical Secretariat (TS) for their usual efficiency and dedication to duty. Let me also join others in commending Angola and Myanmar for their accession to the CWC and to encourage other States outside the Convention to consider doing so in the shortest possible time.

Mr. Chairperson,

4. Nigeria remains fully committed to fulfilling her obligations under the Convention. In this connection, I wish to note that my delegation's position remains the same on fundamental issues regarding the Convention, such as:

- The importance of achieving Universality; as well as

- the continued implementation of the Programme for Africa by the Technical Secretariat (TS) because of the dire need in the region;
- We remain supportive of the implementation of Article X and its provisions relating to assistance and protection against chemical weapons;
- We further support the development of agreed concrete measures and recommendations to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X;
- We welcome the continued engagement of the OPCW in adding value to the fight against terrorism within the confines of the objectives of the CWC; and
- We reiterate the need for equitable geographical representation and gender balancing in the professional ranks of the Organisation.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. Nigeria reiterates the importance of the total destruction of all chemical weapon stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons

which we observe, is a key pillar of the Convention. Let me at this juncture, urge all possessor States Parties of all three categories of chemical weapons to ensure the change in their status from being possessor states to non-possessor states in the shortest possible time.

6. Our focus should be at all times, to achieve this objective, more especially in our discussions on the future of the OPCW. In this regard, my delegation fully supports the establishment of a working group with a time frame, to discuss the future priorities of the OPCW. We equally support the activities developed by the Technical Secretariat on matters relating to education and outreach.

Mr. Chairperson,

7. My delegation wishes to use this opportunity to reaffirm Nigeria's support to the call for the transparent implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) not only with regards to Syria, but also, for every other nation in the world that has not fully fulfilled its obligations in the Convention. We appreciate the

combined efforts of the OPCW experts in collaboration with the United Nations' team in addressing the issues relating to the alleged use of Chemical Weapons in Syria. It is our expectation that OPCW continues to strive to ensure that a re-occurrence of the use of Chemical Weapons in Syria and elsewhere is prevented. In this regard, we applaud the efforts of the United Nations and OPCW in setting up the Joint Investigation Mechanism and urge the body to ensure professionalism in carrying out its work.

Mr. Chairperson,

8. My delegation is particularly pleased with the valuable contribution of the OPCW in the fight against terrorism, in consonance with the mandate of the Organisation. In this regard, we welcome the new facilitator of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, Ambassador of Ghana as well as the facilitator of the sub-working group on Non-States actors Ambassador of Chile and wish them well in their assignments.

9. Finally, we believe that the Chemical Weapons Convention remains a unique and valuable multilateral instrument not only in the prevention of proliferation but also in our concerted efforts towards total destruction of stockpiles of Chemical Weapons. Indeed, our collective resolve to ensure the proper implementation of the Convention will no doubt help to achieve a safer world.

10. We request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of States Parties.

11. I thank you.