



**STATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
AT THE
FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

DELIVERED BY

**H.E. MR OJI NYIMENUATE NGOFA,
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

**THE HAGUE
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Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I warmly welcome back Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of the Kingdom of Morocco as Chairperson of this Special Session. I am confident in your ability to steer the deliberations of this Conference to a successful conclusion, and assure you of the full support of my delegation.

I commend the outgoing Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his eight (8) years of invaluable service to this organisation and to humanity. My delegation wishes him the very best in his future endeavours. The Nigerian delegation looks forward to working with his successor, Ambassador Fernando Arías, towards strengthening the organisation for the fulfilment of its mandate.

The Nigerian delegation aligns itself with the statement of the African Group which was delivered by H.E. Mrs Irene Florence Mkwawa-Kasyanju, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the OPCW.

Mr Chairperson,

Nigeria's abhors the use of Chemical Weapons or Toxic Chemicals or Chemical Warfare Agents anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstances. This was the imperative for Nigeria becoming a state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, in the first place, and it remains so. We have noted, with deep concern, the re-emergence of the use of chemical weapons in various parts of the world. We especially condemn the deployment of toxic chemicals as weapons by non-state actors and terrorists groups. We are worried about, and do not wish to see, a

continuous erosion of the global norm against the use of chemical weapons in particular and weapons of mass destruction in general.

We note that important international institutions have so far, been largely unable to bring to account, those who perpetuate the use of chemical weapons. We view this as inimical to the protection of the norm against the use of chemical weapons. Nigeria is of the opinion that for international conventions and norms to be respected, violators of such norms must be identified and held to account, especially in horrendous situations which the deployment of chemical weapons portend.

Mr Chairperson,

It is in the light of the foregoing that Nigeria stands ready to support any international mechanism which would serve to uphold the ban against the use of chemical weapons worldwide. We call on all states parties to the chemical weapons convention to work in concert towards upholding this international norm, and strengthening the OPCW towards fulfilment of its mandate to rid the world completely of chemical weapons. We note that there is increasing sharp and sometimes bitter polarization among the states parties to the CWC. We wish to remind states parties that we are all members of this organisation because we are united by a common goal – eliminating the use and threat of use of chemical weapons. We, therefore, urge continuous good faith dialogue and engagement among states parties on all issues, to see to the full and effective global implementation of the convention.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Special Session of the Conference and posted on the public website and External Server of the OPCW.

Thank you for your attention.