



**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
(OPCW) AT THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF THE OPCW - THE HAGUE, 8th - 11th, JULY 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

It is with great pleasure that the Nigerian Delegation welcomes you, Your Excellency, Ambassador Álvaro Marcelo Moerzinger, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), to the Chair of the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Executive Council (EC-76). We also wish to assure you of our continued support 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, ably delivered by His Excellency, Ambassador Alireza JAHANGIRI of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also wish to fully associate ourselves with the Statement made on behalf of the African Group by the Representative of the South African Embassy.

3. Through you, Mr. Chairman, we wish to extend our appreciation to the Director-General (DG) of the OPCW, for his informative Opening Statement on

the progress made by the Organisation on topical issues affecting the organization and all states parties. In this regard, we wish to commend him and his team at the Technical Secretariat (TS) for their dedication to duty. Furthermore, we also wish to thank the Vice Chairpersons for their reports on the activities conducted under their respective clusters of issues.

4. I also wish to use this opportunity to thank the DG, the DDG and the Technical Secretariat for their formidable support that have seen four (4) consecutive successful OEWG-T meetings under my facilitatorship. I equally wish to encourage more participation by the state parties in future meetings on terrorism which has become a global challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The positions of my delegation have not changed on core issues relating to the Convention such as:

- The importance of achieving Universality,
- The importance of the continued implementation of the Programme for Africa by the Technical Secretariat (TS),
- The implementation of Article X and its provisions relating to assistance and protection against chemical weapons,
- The development of agreed concrete measures and recommendations to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X,
- The necessity for the OPCW to add value to the fight against terrorism within the confines of the objectives of the CWC, as well as

- The need for equitable geographical representation and gender balancing in the professional ranks of the Organization.

6. In this same vein, my delegation wishes to stress that the total destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons, is the chief aim of the Convention. In this regard, we wish to urge and encourage all possessor States Parties of all categories of chemical weapons, to ensure the change in their status from being possessor states to non-possessor states in the shortest possible time.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The main focus of the Organisation, for quite some time now, has been on 'Syria'. In this regard we are pleased to congratulate Syria on the successful removal of all chemical materials and equipment from its territory before the deadline of 30th June, 2014. In so doing, Syria has fulfilled its commitments in accordance with the provisions of this Council's decision and the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2118 of September 2013. We also wish to note and commend the complete destruction of Syria's isopropanol. Indeed, progress is being made, though there is still much to be done.

8. With regards to the destruction of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities (CWPFs), we encourage continued negotiations towards a speedy resolution.

9. We wish to specially and strongly commend the courage and dedication to duty exhibited by the Fact-Finding Mission team members. We also condemn the life-threatening attack on their convoy, but thank God for their safety.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Nigeria remains fully committed to fulfilling her National Implementation of the Convention and is pleased to inform the EC that the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recently passed for second reading the bill on the chemical weapon convention. It will be recalled that the House of Representatives also did the same in 2013. With this development and subsequent efforts by stakeholders, the process of domesticating the convention and fulfilling our national implementation obligation would soon be completed.

11. My delegation wishes to use this opportunity to state that Nigeria calls for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) not only by Syria, but also by other nations that have not fully fulfilled their obligations. We also wish to use this medium to condemn all forms of continued use of chemical weapons in conflict situations.

12. Finally, we would like to thank all present for their attention and request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Executive Council and be placed on the extranet.

Embassy of Nigeria,

The Hague,

July 2014