

NIGERIAN Delegation

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, H.E.
~~GENERAL MANSUR MUHAMMAD DAN ALI~~ AT THE
FOURTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (4CSP) TO THE ARMS
TRADE TREATY (ATT) 20 -24 AUGUST 2018

PROTOCOL

Let me begin by extending the very warm felicitations of my delegation to His Excellency, Ambassador Nobushige Takamizawa on his election as President of the Fourth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP4). My delegation is confident that your resoluteness and wealth of experience shall guide our deliberations in the course of this Conference. Let me also seize the opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Presidents on their elections, as well as the Secretariat, for guiding States Parties from the Third CSP in Geneva up to this process.

This is the fourth time we are meeting, as States Parties, since the landmark entry into force of this "legally binding instrument to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms" and ensure its early entry into force. It is for this reason that Nigeria has remained resolute on the universalization of this Treaty, and as a measure of my country's commitment to a peaceful world, where growth and development remains unhindered by illicit acquisition and use of unregulated conventional weapons.

We continue to live in an imperfect world, one fraught with the challenges of unregulated arms and transfer of weapons of war in all ramifications. All we need do is to look around us to observe, from close quarters and in real time, the damage and misery of mostly unregulated arms sale and transfers. By its very nature, development is hampered and growth negatively impacted – from Africa to Asia, Middle East to the Americas, conventional warfare and carnage, waged through conventional weapons and resources have beamed through local and global media and photo lenses.

While we continue to call on the entire international community to fully embrace, in recognition and acceptance, this landmark and laudable instrument, it remains encouraging that, at the moment, a total of ninety-seven (97) States Parties, have thrown "hats in the ring", to stay the course and resolute in embracing the ATT. In view of this, my delegation wishes to seize the opportunity provided by the convening of this conference to call on the remaining signatories, as a mark of commitment, to ensure their accession to the treaty.

In the estimation of my delegation, no nation should remain on the sidelines regarding measures established to demonstrate our preparedness to rid the world of unregulated arms transfer. While we are no doubt aware of a number of impediments and challenges that could hamper attempts to accede to the treaty by many, we remain optimistic; in the understanding that, the overall positive and constructive nature of the treaty will draw more States Parties to the fold. In this regard, we call on the new President, to ensure that the thrust of his work tilts towards the universalization of this treaty, by giving due consideration to bringing additional UN Member States from across all regions to accession.

President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Aside the onerous work required of us in the aspect of universalization, we must remain steadfast and strident in other aspects of the substantive issues of implementation, transparency and reporting, information sharing, international cooperation and assistance, sponsorship and national controls system and legislation among others. As we keep our focus on the treaty's universalization, there is the overarching need to keep its tenor and objective in focus, through appropriate house-keeping in the areas hitherto highlighted. Without a doubt, transparency remains a key ingredient in implementing all the aspects treaty, by ensuring that the key parameters of the treaty are respected. It is through such adherence that we could we, as States Parties could genuinely set in motion, the invitation of others through participation.

I am proud to report that my country has begun a journey to aggregate all our agencies and departments involved in the transfer of conventional

weapons into a single entity, for effective monitoring and appropriate implementation of the tenets of the Arms Trade Treaty, to which my delegation remains stridently committed.

I thank you.