

**DRAFT STATEMENT AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF  
THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO  
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (CSP3)**

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by congratulating you for a very successful and productive tenure as Conference President, and for your concise assessment of the work of the Conference, to date. Of immense importance to us is the depth of work undertaken to strengthen the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) around the world, in the past year. I also commend your personal leadership, together with the Secretariat and the Management Committee, in planning and organizing this important conference.

2. I assure you of Nigeria's sustained support.

Mr. President,

3. The challenge posed by illicit trade in arms and ammunition in Africa is more profound than the isolated cases of organized crime, rebel attacks on civilians and peacekeepers, as well as the hijacking of humanitarian aid convoys. It constitutes the most serious threat to our security, political stability and economic development. Increasing cross-border insurgent movements, such as Boko Haram, have resulted in millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

4. For this reason, Nigeria's commitment to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) remains firm. We have underlined our commitment through various initiatives and the vigorous implementation of the treaty in furtherance of regional peace and security.

5. Besides mopping up excess weapons, we have also focused our efforts on preventing the entry of SALW, improving stockpile management, regulating brokers, monitoring local manufacturers and reviewing existing legislations, among others.

6. Recognizing the importance of partnership in the implementation of the treaty, we have worked to improve internal inter-agency cooperation. The importance of sub-regional collective action against the proliferation and abuse of weapons is evident in the number of countries that are State Parties to the Treaty in our sub-region. Commitment to transparency and proper record keeping is also an invaluable part of our implementation strategy.

Mr. President,

7. Individually and collectively, the three Working Groups have improved our knowledge and given concrete direction to our efforts to implement, improve reporting and universalize, the treaty. We, therefore, commend the Co-chairs of the three Working Groups for discharging their responsibilities with a great sense of duty. We believe that the various work plans proposed by the Working Groups are adequate, purpose driven and offer viable pathways for sustained progress.

8. In our view, the ATT will achieve maximum outcome, if we continue to prioritize implementation, universalisation, and transparency in arms transfers as reporting. We are pleased that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) continues to play that vital role.

9. Without a doubt, the ATT enjoys support in Africa, but there are specific areas of concern, including improper implementation, inadequate technical support capacity, knowledge gap, and slow national political ratification procedure. Given this backdrop, we support the establishment and operationalisation of the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) to strengthen the implementation of the Treaty, develop reporting capacity and enhance technical and legal capacity building.

Mr. President,

9. The importance of the ATT lies in the number of conflicts it helps to prevent and the number of lives it helps to save. The challenges of implementing, reporting and universalizing the treaty are enormous, but surmountable. We must be unrelenting in our determination to transform it into a meaningful platform for our common security. Our hope is that CSP 4 will not only harness the benefits of the previous sessions, it will also build on the exemplary work that has so far been accomplished.

10. I thank you