Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to join others who have spoken before us in congratulating you on your election as chairman of the First Committee. We have no doubt that our work will benefit tremendously from your experience, expertise and commitment. We assure you of our full support and cooperation. I also wish to commend your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jarmo Viiinanen of Finland for his leadership and commendable efforts in the cause of disarmament. Nigeria aligns itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman

At the 66th Session of UNGA, my delegation highlighted a number of daunting issues that confronted our world over the past years as well as the minimum required of us towards addressing them. But we were optimistic that better wisdom would prevail and the international community would see the need for concerted action towards addressing those issues of grave importance. We premised such optimism on the series of measures taken to facilitate the global agenda for disarmament and international security and the positive impact those measures could produce in the future. Among such commendable efforts, was the convening of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the NPT PrepCom of the 2015 Review Conference held in Vienna, and the Second Review Conference on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in New York. Others are the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo and the recently held High-Level Meetings on Nuclear Terrorism and on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite these achievements, my delegation remains deeply concerned about the lack of progress in nuclear disarmament. We reaffirm our belief that nuclear weapons are the ultimate weapons of mass destruction and their total elimination should be the final objective of all disarmament processes in the United Nations. We also reaffirm our opposition to modernization of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types. We consider the continued existence and possession of nuclear weapons as inimical to the promotion of international peace and security. If goodwill and common sense will not rid the world of these doomsday weapons, we believe enlightened self-interest should prevail on those possessing nuclear weapons to get rid of them. They offer no credible defence against other enemies possessing similar weapons, and they pose an existential threat to those who do not possess them at all. If the overarching goal of nuclear disarmament is a world free of nuclear weapons; then the world could, at least, demonstrate that the possession and retention of over 20,000 warheads in the arsenals of nuclear weapons states remain not only unacceptable, but should be repudiated. Compliance with the NPT in our view should go hand in hand with the willingness of the nuclear weapons states to disarm and disavow the continued possession of such weapons.
Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the outcome of the 1st Session of the PrepCom for the 2015 NPT Review Conference which provided an opportunity for assessing the implementation of the Treaty. We believe that this meeting and the two sessions that would be held before 2015, should contribute to the overall strategy for the full implementation of the action plans adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference as it concerns nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle-East. In this regard, we look forward to the Conference scheduled to hold in Helsinki, Finland, on the subject of the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

My delegation will continue to support the call for effective assurances to all Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by Nuclear Weapons States (NWS). In this regard, we stress the necessity of the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on Negative Security Assurances to all Non-Nuclear Weapons States.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria believes in the propriety of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We recognize this as essential to promoting the process of nuclear disarmament. We seize this opportunity to call on all States that have not signed or ratified the Treaty to do so. With regards to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), its long standing inability to agree on a programme of work and act on the mandate given to it by the First Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD 1) is adversely affecting its reputation and credibility. It was our hope that the CD would benefit from the momentum generated by the High Level Meeting convened by the UN Secretary-General in September 2010, and the follow-up to that meeting held in July 2011. The clear message that those meetings conveyed to the CD was that the world was disappointed by the stalemate in the CD and its perennial non-performance. For close to two decades, the annual sessions of the CD have been barren and devoid of any satisfactory outcomes. Clearly, this is not a situation that should be allowed to go on indefinitely.

My delegation believes in the urgent revitalization of the CD. Its membership should be reviewed and expanded. The CD should also welcome greater engagement by civil society and Member States should demonstrate the political will and commitment necessary to break the current impasse and move the process forward.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation like many others was deeply disappointed and regrets that despite the enormous efforts put in place by Member States, the Diplomatic Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held last July failed to produce the positive outcome that the vast majority of Member States expected and worked for. My delegation seizes this opportunity to commend the efforts of Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina and the
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dynamic contributions of the two working group chairs from Morocco and the Netherlands. We wish to reiterate that an apparent lack of consensus on the draft text presented by the President last July should not necessarily deter Member States from forging ahead in making concerted efforts to address this important matter. My delegation respects the consensus rule as an abiding principle to mobilize wide range of support for our work, but stresses the importance of a delineation of the consensus rule not to be exercised as a power of veto. In this regard, Nigeria will support the present draft text as a basis for further negotiation on an ATT.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation acknowledges with appreciation the overwhelming support received from Member States by Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, during the Second Review Conference on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). My delegation also acknowledges the valuable contribution made by Australia, Egypt, Guyana and Japan in their capacity as facilitators during the negotiations. We also welcome and recognize the significant part played by civil society organizations in the success of the conference. We believe that this underscores the need for the UN to continue to engage civil society in all its deliberations.

Finally Mr. Chairman, Nigeria wishes to underscore the important role of the First Committee with respect to the realization of the objectives of the UN Charter and to reiterate that the ethos of multilateralism remains the safest guarantee of international peace and security. My delegation shall therefore continue to work constructively in this Committee and all other fora towards achieving the goal of disarmament.