FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VIVIAN OKEKE,
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO
THE IAEA

ON CLUSTER III: PEACEFUL USES OF
NUCLEAR ENERGY AND OTHER PROVISIONS
OF THE TREATY

AT THE
SECOND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
MEETING (PREPCOM) OF THE 2020 REVIEW
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

GENEVA, APRIL 2018.
Thank you Chairman,

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered under this cluster by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of Non Aligned State Parties to the NPT. We also endorse the working paper by the Non Aligned Movement State Parties on the “the inalienable right to peaceful research, production and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes”. We endorse as well, the joint working paper submitted by the members of the NPDI on peaceful uses. In our national capacity, we would like to add the following:

2. My delegation would like to once again underscore the uniqueness and importance of the NPT. Besides serving as an important cornerstone in global peace and security, the grand bargain of the treaty, which assures of the right of State Parties to pursue the use of nuclear energy applications for their developmental aspirations, makes the treaty a timeless and continually relevant instrument.

3. In recent years, more developing countries including Nigeria are embracing nuclear technology to meet their developmental needs, especially in important areas such as human and animal health, water conservation, agriculture and
power generation. This is as it should be; indeed, peaceful uses are the only legitimate manner in which the potential of nuclear technology should be applied.

4. We reiterate that the right of all parties to this treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Article IV, should continue to be respected and deepened by the NPT community.

5. The right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy is as inalienable as it is a sovereign choice. However, once the choice is made, the necessity for international cooperation cannot be over emphasised. In this regard, my delegation highlights the valuable role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in providing support to member states through the Technical Cooperation Programme.

6. In this context, we welcome the scheduled IAEA International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology Technical Cooperation and look forward to its contribution to the strengthening of the IAEA’s Peaceful Uses Programme and its delivery mechanism.

7. My delegation is also aware of the huge level of support from various Member States and donors whose continued support makes the Technical Cooperation Programme and
Peaceful Uses a reality. However, the yawning gap which still exists could only be filled by concerted efforts towards more technology transfer and accelerated programmes of capacity building and cooperation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. My delegation believes that Nuclear Science and Technology could play an important role as states strive to actualize the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Accordingly, we urge all states to do all that they can to ensure that access to the benefits made available by peaceful uses of nuclear energy are enlarged to the greatest extent possible.

9. Nuclear Energy is clean, viable and environment and climate friendly. Recalling the 2015 landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change, we therefore urge more cooperation in enabling access to nuclear energy in the energy mix of interested countries. This would conform not only with the relevant articles of the NPT, but also further the commitments of State Parties to the Paris Agreement.

10. Nigeria, like many other developing countries, is faithful to her obligations under the NPT. Not only have we renounced the nuclear weapons option, we have signed and ratified the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone also known as the...
Pelindaba Treaty. In addition, we are also in compliance with our relevant Safeguards obligations. Consequently, it is our expectation that the concomitant right to peaceful uses without any form of inhibition or conditionality would be fully respected and supported.

11. On a final note, Mr. Chairman, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation are important because they both seek to rid the world of nuclear weapons and thus guarantee security. However, it is the Peaceful Uses pillar that possesses the inherent capability to accelerate the development and prosperity of the world, thus guaranteeing in its own way, human socio-economic security and development.

12. Nigeria hopes that this PREPCOM will reset the tone that will lead to the review cycle coming up with clear concrete measures that further preserve and facilitate the rights of states to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

I thank you.