



STATEMENT OF NIGERIA

AT THE TWELFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (12MSP) TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 3 – 7 DECEMBER 2012

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation would like to join others in congratulating you on your election as President of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APLC). We also assure you of our support.

The Nigerian delegation congratulates all delegations present here today for their efforts in making our Convention what it is today. Without your commitment and dedication we could not have achieved the progress that we have witnessed. We are pleased to note that the killing, maiming and rendering of the environment uninhabitable by land mines is being tackled such that annual casualty rates have fallen in many countries. This clearly demonstrates the willingness and firm commitment of the international community to totally eradicate these weapons around the world. In order to universalise this effort, we call on States that are not yet Party to the Convention to consider joining it, in the interest of humanity.

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation wishes to remind delegations that during the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (11MSP) in Cambodia, and in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Nigeria submitted a formal

declaration of the destruction of all Anti-Personnel Mines wherever they were known or suspected to be emplaced in areas under our jurisdiction.

Furthermore, during the 11MSP, Nigeria had declared and enumerated a list of things to be done, in the event that previously unknown mined areas were discovered. We therefore seize this opportunity to renew and emphasise these commitments as follows:

- i. Nigeria will report such mined areas in accordance with our obligations under Article 7 and share such information through the Intersessional Work Programme, including the Standing Committee Meetings;
- ii. Nigeria will ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5 obligations;
- iii. Nigeria will destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its needs for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

Mr. President,

In order for the humanitarian effects of the Convention to be realised, there is a need for the issue of victim assistance to be given the necessary attention it deserves. It is pertinent to mention here that most of the victims of these weapons are found in developing countries, which are already struggling to deal with numerous difficult socio-economic and developmental challenges. As such, we call on States Parties to redouble their efforts in strengthening international cooperation and assistance to those countries in need, in furtherance of the objectives of the Convention.

Similarly, the Nigerian delegation commends all those countries that are engaged in providing assistance to victims of these weapons, especially in the areas of healthcare, rehabilitation and other services to mention a few. We also note and commend the role of the ICRC and NGOs like Handicap International in providing funds to support emergency medical care, physical rehabilitation and other forms of assistance.

Finally Mr. President, Nigeria looks forward to a fruitful and successful meeting ahead of us this week, and we use this occasion to assure all delegations of our cooperation and collaboration.

I thank you
