



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY NIGERIA ON AGENDA ITEM 7
(TREATY IMPLEMENTATION) AT THE 11TH CONFERENCE OF
STATE PARTIES OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)
(TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2025)**

Mr. President,

Nigeria commends your leadership and appreciates the Chair of the Working Group on Treaty Implementation (WGTI) and the Secretariat for the concise and insightful report before us.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

We meet at a time when wars continue to ravage our world from the Middle East to Europe, and across Africa. These conflicts have brought immense human suffering, displacement, and destruction. Disturbingly, in several of these theatres of war, States Parties to this very Treaty have been implicated in supplying arms to parties credibly accused of grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Treaty implementation is the backbone of the ATT's credibility. Such actions undermine not only the spirit and letter of the ATT but also our collective credibility. The Treaty obliges us to ensure that arms transfers do not fuel atrocities, prolong conflicts, or endanger civilians. Nigeria believes that treaty implementation must therefore go beyond reporting obligations, it must reflect a genuine commitment to uphold international law and the humanitarian principles that underpin our shared security.

Nigeria continues to take concrete measures at the national level to ensure effective implementation. Guided by the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF), we successfully executed two projects in 2020 and 2022. Currently, Nigeria is finalizing the development of a national control list, which will form an integral part of our legislation once adopted by the National Assembly and signed into law by the President. We view this as a vital step in strengthening our licensing, risk assessment, and diversion-prevention systems.

As a country directly affected by the illicit and irresponsible flow of arms — which continues to fuel terrorism, banditry, and insurgency in our region — Nigeria calls for:

Greater accountability for States Parties whose arms transfers contravene the ATT.

Stricter national and regional controls to prevent diversion, especially in conflict-prone regions.

Enhanced international cooperation and assistance to build the technical capacity of States facing the destabilizing impact of illicit arms.

Nigeria commends States Parties that have submitted their implementation reports and encourages those in default to fulfill this important obligation, which builds confidence and strengthens collective security.

Finally, Mr. President, the ATT was born out of the conviction that our collective security depends on responsible arms governance. Nigeria urges all States Parties to recommit to the core principles of this Treaty, and to ensure that our words here in Geneva translate into action in the real world where lives are at stake.

I Thank you.