



**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT**

**AT THE**

**EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (CSP8)**

**TO THE**

**ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)**

**AUGUST 2022**

Thank you for giving Nigeria the floor

**Mr President,**

Allow me as a matter of priority, to congratulate you, His Excellency, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament, Thomas Göbel, on your assumption of the leadership of the 8<sup>TH</sup> Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. The astute vision, excellent leadership and effective role which you have continued to demonstrate since assumption of office, is indeed commendable.

2. As this CSP8 signposts another iconic physical gathering of States Parties to the ATT after the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we hope that our deliberations yield fruitful outcomes aimed at advancing the goals of the Treaty. On this note, allow me to reiterate the support of my delegation as we rely on your leadership to steer our work throughout the CSP8

**Mr. president,**

3. The CSP8, aptly themed; '**Post-Shipment Controls and Coordination**', is in consonance with Nigeria's strong and unflinching commitment to the goal of the ATT as a multilateral instrument aimed at regulating the international trade in conventional arms, among other objectives. Since joining the ATT in August 2013 and as one of the pioneer signatories to the Treaty, Nigeria has consistently demonstrated active involvement in the activities of the ATT.

4. It could be recalled that at the initial stage and after the submission of Nigeria's preliminary Report in December 2015, the country was faced with the challenges of capacity gaps and lack of adequate understanding of the operations of the ATT. Hence, it was difficult for the country to fulfil her annual reporting obligation and other commitments to the ATT. However, I am glad to report that these challenges have now been substantially addressed following the successful conduct, outcome and lessons learnt from the ATT-VTF

sponsored project titled '**Strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation for Treaty Implementation and Reporting**'; which was graciously approved for Nigeria under the 2020 project cycle by the VTF Selection Committee. To further address the aforementioned capacity gap, the government has established the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, to Control the Proliferation of SALW across the country.

**Mr. president,**

5. As a direct fallout of the project, Nigeria has been able to submit in record time, her annual reports to the ATT Secretariat up to the Year 2021, while efforts are currently ongoing to submit the report for the Year 2022 within the shortest possible timeframe. Similarly, as a key outcome of the project, Nigeria is in the process of establishing an Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee to ensure effective implementation of the Treaty in the country. These great achievements would not have been possible without the ATT-VTF's project intervention and support from the ATT Secretariat.

6. It is interesting to also report that the VTF Selection Committee has granted provisional approval for Nigeria's 2022 ATT-VTF Grant Application under the proposed project titled '**Drafting and Validation of a Comprehensive National Legislation for Arms Trade Treaty Implementation.**' The aim of the project is ultimately to develop a workable and harmonized single national legislation that would promote an effective implementation of the ATT in the country.

7. I must emphasize that Nigeria's success in sustaining the already achieved milestones, is contingent on the positive finalization of the country's 2022 ATT-VTF Grant Application and the continued support from the ATT Secretariat. This would further enhance our efforts and commitments towards addressing illicit trade as well as transfer of conventional arms including issues relating to post-shipment controls and coordination as a key priority area envisioned by the CSP8 President.

**In Conclusion Mr. President,**

8. My delegation looks forward to taking advantage of the discussions and key decisions that would emanate from this important Conference, and let me assure you, fellow State Parties, Stakeholders, as well as the ATT Secretariat, that Nigeria is fully committed to the ideals of the Treaty.

9. Thank you, Your Excellencies.