



**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT PRESENTED BY  
MRS. MUSTAPHA OLUFUNMILAYO M. AT  
THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF STATE  
PARTIES (CSP5) TO THE ARMS TRADE  
TREATY (ATT) GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
FROM 26 TO 30 AUGUST 2019**

**Mr. President,**

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group by the distinguished Representative of Namibia. In my national capacity, My delegation congratulates the President of the Fifth Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty on his deserving election, and expresses great confidence in his experience and ability to steer our deliberations to successful outcomes. We wish to appreciate the members of the Secretariat, the Working Groups and the ISU for the coordinated manner they have superintended the affairs of the ATT. My delegation also congratulates Canada for acceding to the ATT. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, we urge other States Parties that are yet to accede to the Treaty to do so without further delay.

**Mr. President,**

2. Note that a significant portion of the global population, including many in my country, have experienced the tragic consequences of the illicit flow of conventional arms in the hands of criminal gangs, and terrorists. These weapons continue to undermine otherwise peaceful societies, cause internal displacement and are responsible for hundreds of deaths globally. Nigeria therefore remains committed to the ATT as an international instrument that regulates the global trade in Conventional Arms in order to contain their illicit trade and diversion

**Mr. President,**

3. This meeting provides a platform to take stock of our achievements and shortcomings in the past years as well as an opportunity to forge a clear path to addressing the menace of arms proliferation. Consequently, West Africa continues to be severely affected by the uncontrolled manufacturing and proliferation of firearms and ammunition as aftermath of the armed conflicts and their spill-over effect in the wider region.

4. In particular, the destabilization of some countries in the sub-region in the recent years has illustrated the fragility of arms control, with weapons spreading

throughout the region and nourishing both Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism. Firearms control is a cross-cutting objective in the context of preventing and addressing armed conflicts, terrorism and organized crime and should constitute a key component of any effective security and stability efforts.

5. Furthermore, most countries lack adequate legislative frameworks and the necessary technical skills and means to implement the relevant regional and international legal instruments, effectively and in a continuous and autonomous manner. In this connection, my delegation calls on States Parties to support collaborative efforts to address the lack of adequate data on firearms and empirically verifiable data on firearms trafficking and related areas, and removal of impediments for a proper understanding of the extent and dimension of the firearms problem and their impact on human security and safety.

6. Nigeria is deeply concerned about the illicit trade and transfer of arms globally and has thus redoubled efforts at strengthening her national borders as well as alliances across the West African sub-region and beyond to check the dilemma. Our commitment is further demonstrated by the signing and ratification of relevant regional and international instruments.