



STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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AT

**THE SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

GENEVA, 20 NOVEMBER 2006

Please Check against Delivery.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to commence my speech by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Six Review Conference of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, 2006. Considering your vast experience on matters of disarmament, I am full of optimism that the outcome of our deliberations will help to re-focus and strengthen our implementation efforts towards a common goal. I therefore wish to assure you of the immense support and cooperation of my delegation and to urge you to steer the Conference in your usual candour and fairness.

You are aware of the resolve and assurance of Nigeria on its willingness and determination to vigorously implement the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) to ensure that the world is made a safe place for mankind. Nigeria is fully committed to this cause and joins the progressive nations of the world to fight against the threat of biological attacks.

Mr. Chairman,

You will recall that at the Fifth Review Conference of States Parties to the BWC held in 2002, it was agreed by consensus to hold three annual meetings commencing in

2003 up to 2005 on five broad topics at the level of the Meeting of Experts. The outcome of these deliberations, I am sure, will form part of the subject of discussion at this Review Conference. The forum will also afford States Parties the opportunity to take a holistic examination of the implementation efforts on a Convention that has been in operation for over thirty years. The Conference would have to take into cognisance some developments and new trends that may have impacted the BWC and attempt to contain them without hampering the objective of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria has made substantial progress on the implementation of the BWC since it ratified the Convention in 1973. All the relevant ministries/agencies whose mandate is in consonance with the BWC have been brought on board and regular meetings held to streamline their activities along the provision of the Convention. The implementation of the BWC is highly sensitive and complicated and calls for collaborative efforts and synergy among all critical stakeholders. Through regular meetings and contacts, the core stakeholders' i.e. Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, National Emergency Management Agency and the Research Institutes have strengthened their cooperation as well as with international organisations for better performance.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the efforts of Nigeria in fully implementing the Convention, she would however, have done better if technical assistance and support was extended to her in critical areas like legislation, institutions mechanisms for surveillance and capacity-building. We therefore solicit support and understanding in this regard.

Finally, let me reiterate Nigeria's resolve and commitment to the full implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and abhorrence of any form of biological attacks.

Thank you.