

**Nigeria Country Statement delivered by HE Hon Geoffrey Onyeama,  
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Ministerial Segment of the  
International Conference on Nuclear Security; December 5, 2016**

Mr. President,

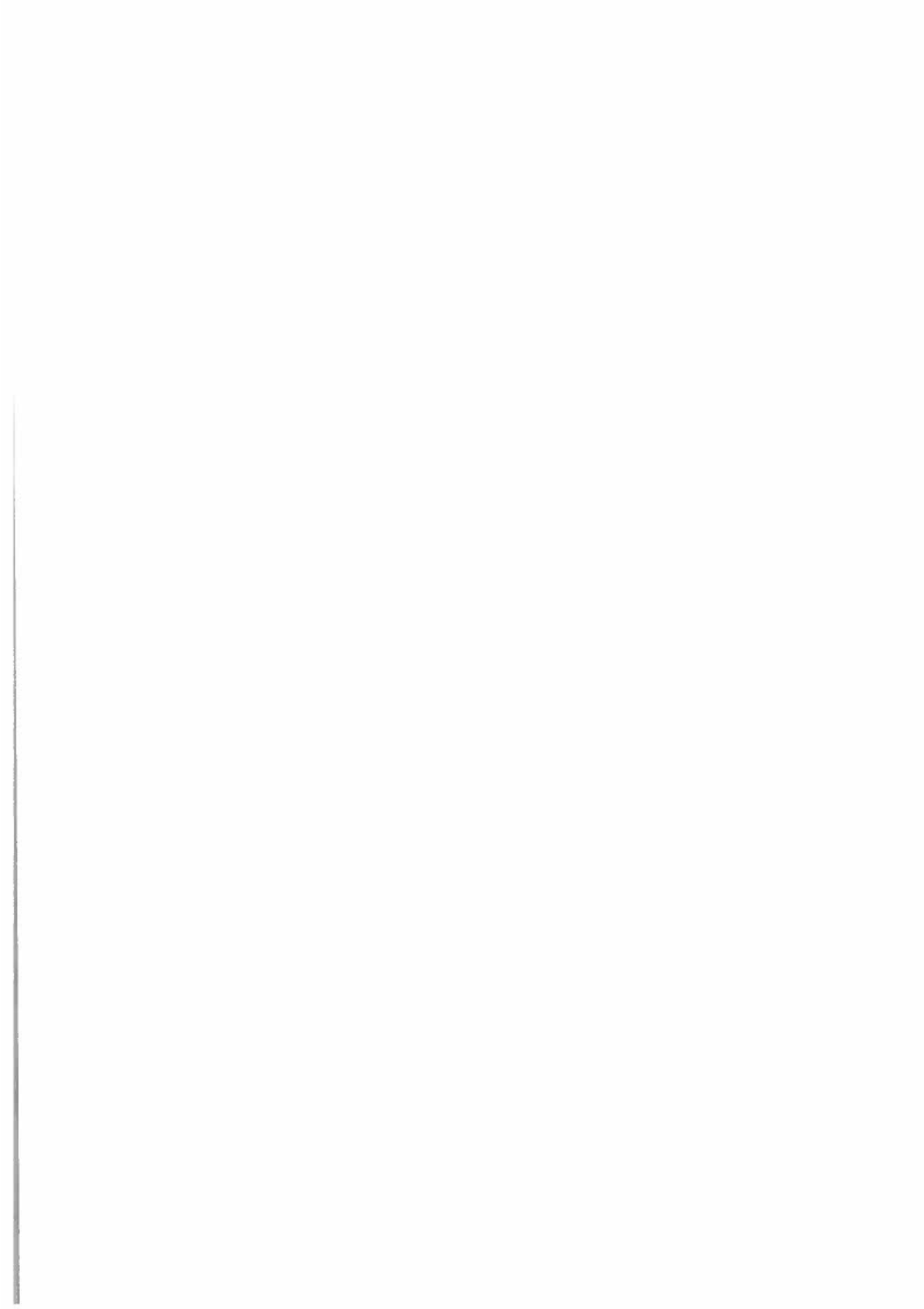
Nigeria is delighted to participate in this 2nd International Conference on Nuclear Security, and would like to express our appreciation to the IAEA for the good arrangements towards its successful hosting. From the outset, my delegation would like to place on record, our total support for this process. We do also express our gratitude to Member States and the Secretariat for finding Nigeria worthy, and the honour done to us for the privilege of serving as the Co-Chair of the Ministerial Declaration preparatory process.

2. Nigeria subscribes to the international norm that Nuclear Security within a State is the responsibility of that State. However, we also recognise that international cooperation and enhanced transparency among countries can help in facilitating the protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities, and thereby further the goals of nuclear security. Consequently, we are happy to join other Member States under the auspices of the IAEA for this important Conference, particularly at a time that the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) has come into force.

3. As a committed State Party to the CPPNM and its Amendment, Nigeria has also, in the recent past, facilitated the Agency's effort in promoting and galvanizing our regional support to speed up the universalization of the Convention and to herald the coming into force of the 2005 Amendment. We shall continue to take necessary actions to strengthen our partnership with the international community to ensure a sustained global nuclear security regime, particularly with the increased and expanded use of nuclear materials, globally.

Mr. President

4. As a further affirmation of our national commitment to strengthening our nuclear security, Nigeria, under the coordination of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), has finalized the institutional and technical framework for the establishment of a National Nuclear Security Centre (NNSC) in Abuja. The Nigeria Atomic Energy



Commission (NAEC) and the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) are the key sectoral partners in this national endeavour.

5. The technical facilities, which will provide the backbone and architectural support for the attainment of the objects of the NNSC, are currently under development at the Nuclear Technology Centre in Sheda-Abuja, and will soon become fully operational. The NNSC is also implementing activities to facilitate the development of sustainable human resources, as well as provision of the technical systems for the sustenance of an effective and robust national nuclear security. We also believe that it is strategically positioned to adequately support both national and regional initiatives.

6. As a country, newly embarking on the deployment of nuclear power plants for electricity generation, Nigeria clearly recognises the inherent nuclear security implications, and will continue to ensure the security and protection of all materials in its territory, through the building of pertinent national nuclear security architecture. In this regard, our national strategy for building critical human resources for the entronement of a robust national nuclear security regime, through education and training entails, amongst others:

- imbedding of security and safety culture as an intrinsic component in the training of nuclear professionals;
- interfacing with relevant national security agencies to strengthen national security commitment to the programmes from the outset, as has already being initiated through the establishment of a national nuclear security centre;
- investing in requisite nuclear security infrastructure and systems; and
- networking and partnering with other national, regional and international nuclear security frameworks, such as the US DoE Partnership for Nuclear Security (PNS) and the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS).

Mr President

7. Haven actively participated in the series of four Nuclear Security Summits, Nigeria is committed to fulfilling its nuclear security responsibilities and obligations, and would like to further underscore its commitment to the planned activities of the Nuclear Security Contact



Group. We will continue to build on the gains of these relationships to strengthen our national nuclear security framework.

8. I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude that Nigeria continues to receive pertinent technical assistance from the IAEA to strengthen its institutional framework. One such area of assistance was in the development our national Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) which became operational since 2010. The INSSP contains a list of activities necessary for instituting effective nuclear security infrastructure in the country. It is my understanding that we have surpassed the minimum threshold requirements. Furthermore, an IAEA Review Mission was also conducted in March 2016 in Vienna, Austria, and the implementation of the new Nigeria INSSP has already commenced.

9. I would like to reiterate the fact that Nigeria continues to upgrade its physical security and protection systems for nuclear materials. This has been achieved through capacity building and strengthening of the requisite institutional framework, as well as cooperation through bilateral and multilateral partnerships. For instance, in collaboration with the US Department of Energy, we have developed and implemented a programme, since 2005, to protect vulnerable nuclear and other radioactive materials in research facilities, as well as the removal and disposal of excess and disused nuclear and other radiological materials. We have also received valuable support from the IAEA for the upgrade of the physical security at the Nigeria Research Reactor-1 (NIRR-1) facility at the Centre for Energy Research and Training, Zaria, and for the ongoing conversion of the reactor core from using highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel.

10. In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to affirm that Nigeria recognises the importance of Nuclear Security; has the political will and is continuously building its technical competence for enhanced readiness to meet its national Nuclear Security obligations. It is therefore our expectation that the outcomes of this important Conference would further strengthen the Nuclear Security framework internationally, as well as in individual Member States, by streamlining the requisite set of actions to enhance and fast-track the universalization and implementation of the provisions of the Amended CPPNM.

11. I thank you, Mr. President.

To be read by Dr. Franklin Osaisai  
Chairman Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission.