

**Country Statement of the Federal Republic of Nigeria delivered by the,
Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria H.E Mr.
Zubairu Dada at the Ministerial Segment of the International Conference
on Nuclear Security; 10 February 2020**

Mr. President

Nigeria is delighted to participate in this third International Conference on Nuclear Security, and would like to place on record, our continuing support for this process. I would also like to express our gratitude to Panama and Romania the co-chairs of the preparatory process who are also co-presidents of the Conference for their hard work and leadership.

2. It is our expectation that the outcomes of this important Conference would further strengthen the Nuclear Security framework internationally, as well as in individual Member States. We welcome the Declaration which we adopted earlier today. We hope that its contents would assist in advancing the IAEA's work especially the next Nuclear Security Plan.

Mr. President

3. 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.

Mr President

4. Nigeria is a Party to all other relevant international conventions in the area of Nuclear Security, including the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and its amendment. In this regard, we will continue supporting the work of the IAEA to universalise the treaty especially in Africa. We look forward to the Maiden Review Conference mandated by the amendment in 2021 which Nigeria will be honoured to co-chair with Switzerland.

5. We are applying in our facilities and in the handling of nuclear and radioactive materials, the relevant IAEA guidance's and recommendations based on the Nuclear Security Series. I am pleased to affirm once again, that the relevant authorities in Nigeria will continue

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. Our Nuclear security centres are being 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, we have developed a national strategy for building critical human resources that will sustain a robust national nuclear security regime, through education and training.

Mr President

7. Haven actively participated in the series of four Nuclear Security Summits, Nigeria is committed to fulfilling all commitments made at the forum and would like to further underscore its commitment to the continuing work of the Nuclear Security Contact Group.

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 is in the development and continuing implementation of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) which became operational since 2010. The INSSP has been most useful to my country.

9. In Nigeria, 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 and other partners 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 successful conversion of the reactor core from using highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel.

10. In conclusion, 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.

11. I thank you, Mr. President and I assure the Secretariat and our new Director General Nigeria's continued support.