



Note No:.....²¹¹/2023

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and has the honor to refer to forward herewith, the statement delivered by the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the 9th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Mission wishes to formally request that the statement be published on the website of the Convention as an official working document of the meeting.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 12 December, 2023

Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty
Geneva, Switzerland





**STATEMENT BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ON
BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP DURING THE GENERAL
DEBATE AT THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**21 TO 25 AUGUST, 2023
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**STATEMENT BY THE AFRICAN GROUP AT THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF
STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**DELIVERED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 21 TO 25 AUGUST,
2023, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Thank you, Mr President, I have the honor to deliver / I'm delivering this statement on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the African group, to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. Rest assured of the optimum support of the Group, as you preside over our work in the next coming days.

Allow me to also take this opportunity to extend profound gratitude to you and your team, including members of the Implementation Support Unit, for their hard work and ensuring timely meetings during the intersessional period.

Mr President,

The continent of Africa has remained one of the most negatively impacted regions of the continuous proliferation, circulation and illicit transfers of conventional weapons. Indeed, the movement of small arms and light weapons, in particular, remains a major security challenge to lives and livelihood across the length and breadth of the continent.

Notwithstanding these challenges, however, the African region has continued to redouble efforts to combat illicit trafficking and unregulated trade in conventional weapons, including the blockage of supply routes to terrorist and criminal organizations, through appropriate weapons transfer control measures. In this regard, we wish to take this opportunity to urge states of the African region that have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratifying the treaty.

We commend the concerted efforts for the implementation of the Treaty throughout the eight conferences of States Parties so far held. We are hopeful that this 9th CSP would usher in renewed commitment by States to promote the universalization of the Treaty and its effectiveness through the existing Working Groups.

Mr President,

The African Group welcomes the proposal of the Working Group on Treaty Implementation (WGETI) on the reconfiguration of implementation discussions as well as the proposal of Working Group on Treaty Universalisation (WGTU) on enhancing treaty universalisation. We further support the proposal presented by the Chair of the working Group on Treaty Implementation regarding the Draft General stages/phases of treaty implementation. We believe that as the work of the Working Groups draw to a close, these suggested topics will enable states parties to engage constructively on the practical implementation of the treaty. We strongly encourage the approach of having an ATT process that is streamlined and focused on agreed workplans.

While acknowledging and appreciating the work carried out by the Management Committee, the African group would like to flag that the implementation of the two proposals be given time to be tested within the current schedule of meetings in order to obtain their true value.

Mr. President,

The African Group wishes to reiterate the importance of universalizing the Treaty as a core principle that promotes global regulation in the context of imports and exports of conventional arms. In this regard, allow me to also take this opportunity to inform that the aspiration of the African Group, within the context of the ATT, is hinged on its Universalization and the strengthening of international cooperation, as well as the provision of technical assistance to States parties who require such expertise. We wish to therefore seize this opportunity to encourage the continued fulfilment of regular transparency reporting obligations.

The African group wishes to further reiterate the importance of technical assistance to States Parties as a vital mechanism that could play a major role in providing the required assistance and expertise needed to fulfil the Treaty obligations. Such assistance may include, but not limited to: reinforcement of capacities in post-shipment control, detection of irregularities, control against fraud, shipment tracing, as well as the identification of appropriate end-user documentation.

Mr President,

Cognizant of the dual use potential of technology in the context of information sharing and communication related to arms transfer, the

African Group welcomes the immense contributions of rapidly developing technologies to facilitate efficient arms trade and monitoring. However, we are also concerned about the challenges posed by these technologies in the fight against the trade in illicit arms, particularly the opportunities it provides for cyber infiltration by non-state actors. While this remains worrisome, we welcome concrete dialogue aimed at establishing preventive measures in this regard.

In conclusion, Mr. president,

The African group wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the ideals of the ATT and remains resolute in its quest to rid the continent of the scourge of illicit arms transfer. Noting the negative impacts of unregulated weapons trade on the African continent, the Group assures you of its firm support, as you steer our work towards concrete outcomes at this Ninth Conference of States Parties.