

REMARKS BY

H.E., GEOFFREY ONYEAMA THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, AT THE MINISTERIAL
MEETING ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY, IN VIENNA, ON 13TH JUNE, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, may I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Forty-Sixth Session of the Preparatory Commission facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty taking place today in Vienna. I am optimistic that your leadership style will provide the necessary impetus in spurring us to success and the coming into effect very soon of the CTBT.

2. I would like to express our appreciation to the Executive Secretary, Dr. Lassina Zerbo and the Provisional Technical Secretariat for their untiring efforts, commitment to the ideals of the organization and the preparations for this meeting.

3. This Ministerial Meeting is very special as it marks the Twentieth anniversary of CTBT opening signature. Nigeria believes this meeting provides an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the successes already achieved by the Preparatory Commission particularly its Verification Regime. It also provides opportunity for us to jointly access the challenges confronting the CTBT in the past twenty years and the *raison d'état* why the Treaty has not come into effect.

4. My delegation would like to commend the efforts of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) for adopting the Hiroshima Declaration which among others calls on States concerned to heed to the plea by the international community to opt for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by refraining from any further nuclear weapon tests and subsequently sign and ratify the treaty to enable it come into force.

5. I am impressed that the Youth have joined the band wagon that will carry the banner of CTBTO higher to ensure the long awaited coming into effect of the Treaty. The support of the CTBTO Youth all over the world gave me the hope of a future for the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Nigeria signed the treaty on 8 September, 2000 and subsequently deposited its instrument of ratification of the CTBT with the Secretary-General of the UN on 27 September, 2001. Nigeria's participation at this Ministerial Meeting is therefore to further demonstrate once more our strong resolve to support the universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Nigeria supports the statement by the Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative (NPTI).

Mr. Chairman,

7. Finally, It is my hope therefore that in not so far a distant time, substantial signing and ratifications from all Annex 2 States would have taken place for the Treaty to enter into force.

I thank you