

**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL
COOPERATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)**

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria strongly believes that regional and sub-regional cooperation would enhance the implementation of the BWC particularly in the areas of security, promotion of mutual trust, joint projects, research and development, information networking, capacity building, universalisation and CBMS. We believe that the BWC which entered into force almost 35 years ago will enjoy a great boost if such approach is effectively operationalised. The lessons from the seminar on BWC organised for West and Central Africa by the EU in April this year have remained encouraging to Nigeria. One of the major outcomes is the acceleration of the domestication process of the BWC in Nigeria through the technical assistance of the EU.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria therefore encourages regional and sub-regional cooperation especially the intervention of the more experienced and developed States Parties, if only to put into action our new slogan of "adjacency to synergy" to ensure a more balanced and collective approach on the implementation of the BWC.

We need not reiterate that the implementation of BWC may not be a priority of the African Region despite its laudable objective in view of the other competing demands and attractions. The attention of such States Parties can only be guaranteed through closer collaboration, almost on one on one basis, which can be achieved through well articulated and encouraging programmes covering such areas as capacity building, training, education, provision of equipment etc.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria acknowledges the efforts of EU in this regard which no doubt will greatly strengthen the implementation efforts of the new member States and developing States Parties. We also see the ISU playing a facilitating role in these arrangements.

Thank you.