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STATEMENT

BY

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(NIGERIA)

AT THE

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF**

**SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE AP MINE BAN  
CONVENTION, CARTAGENA DE INDIAS**

**COLUMBIA**

4 DECEMBER 2009

**Madam President,  
Mr. Vice President,  
Your Royal Majesties  
Your Excellencies,  
Fellow citizens of the World,**

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of the Second Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention. My delegation appreciates your leadership, and we thank you for the success of this review conference.

2. Let me also seize this opportunity to express appreciation to the Government of Colombia for its excellent preparations for this meeting, and for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city.

3. The impressive attendance at this Review Conference by States Parties, international organizations and civil society amply underscore the importance the international community attaches to the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The strength of this Convention lies in its humanitarian objectives which is why we must redouble our efforts to reduce the excruciating human suffering caused by landmines.

4. Nigeria is particularly pleased with the significant achievements of this Convention, notably in victim assistance, international cooperation and efforts being directed at its universalization. Credit for this success rightly belongs to the States Parties who, together, have consistently worked hard toward achieving the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan. This Convention was created through collaboration and partnership and it must continue to be driven by this shared commitment. Indeed, it

is thanks to this robust partnership that the AP Mine Ban Convention has become one of the most successful instruments of humanitarian law.

5. While we can all look back with pride for what has been achieved, our work is far from complete. Indeed, the theme of this Summit namely "*Towards a Mine-Free World*" is a reminder that significant challenges still lie ahead. Whether in mine destruction, victim assistance or universalization of the Convention, we must continue to work together until the entire world is rid of the threat posed by landmines.

6. Since its accession to the Convention in March 2002, Nigeria has remained consistent and untiring in its efforts to ensure the full realization of the objectives of the Convention. We completed the destruction of anti-personal landmines in our military stockpiles between 2004 and 2005. As we reported during the thematic discussions on "clearing mined areas", as soon as some limited numbers of anti-personnel landmines were discovered in some parts of Nigeria, we took prompt action to identify and to destroy these mines to protect civilian lives and community livelihoods.

7. I am also happy to report that, following a request from the Nigerian military establishment, the Justice Ministry has recently issued an opinion to confirm that existing national legislations are sufficient for the full implementation of the AP Mine Ban Convention in Nigeria. This has therefore brought to an end a long process to domesticate the Convention under Nigerian law.

8. Nigeria fully subscribes to the Cartagena Declaration, and will continue to work with States Parties, civil society organizations and other partners to promote the achievement of the Cartagena Action Plan.

9. I thank you for your attention.

