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**'Universalization of 2005 Amendment to CPPNM': The Nigerian
perspective on the importance of the CPPNM and its Amendment for
strengthening nuclear security**

by Dr. F. Erepamo Osaisai

**Speaker, Main Panel Discussion on the 'Universalization of 2005
Amendment to CPPNM'**

Madame Moderator, Excellencies and Distinguished Colleagues,

I thank the organizers for inviting me as one of the Speakers on this Panel to share my thoughts with this distinguished audience, on the Nigerian perspective for the Universalization of the CPPNM and its Amendment. My emphasis would be on highlighting national efforts at improving mechanisms for information sharing, the strengthening of our national capacity and frameworks and regional cooperation and cohesion, as well as promoting activities for the universalization of the Amendment.

2. The strengthened provisions of the amended Convention make it legally binding for States Parties to protect nuclear facilities and material in peaceful domestic use, storage as well as transport. It also provides for expanded cooperation between and among States regarding rapid measures to locate and recover stolen or smuggled nuclear material, mitigate any radiological consequences of sabotage, and prevent and combat related offences.

3. As a mark of its commitment to the safe and secure use of nuclear materials, Nigeria became a party to the Convention on April 4, 2007 and officially accepted and ratified the amendment on May 4, 2007. It also played a key role in galvanizing regional support to herald the coming into force of the 2005 Amendment, by partnering with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to host an African Regional Workshop on Facilitating Adherence to and Implementation of the Amendment to the CPPNM in Abuja in October 2012.

4. The outcome of the Workshop which was attended by thirty-one participants from twelve IAEA Member States (including Nigeria) and three IAEA staff, included increasing the awareness of the Amendment and provided a forum which shared information and experiences of the countries in the African Region on joining the Amendment. Of the twelve States represented at the time, three were Parties to the Amendment and nine to the CPPNM only.

5. The Workshop outcomes included observations and recommendations, some of which are paraphrased as follows:

- i. Underscored the importance of the CPPNM and its Amendment to all States within the Region, as well as the necessity for them to join the Amendment, considering its major impact on reducing the vulnerability of States to possible malicious acts, involving nuclear material used for

peaceful purposes including during transport and nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes.

- ii. Noted that ratification of the Amendment was in tandem with a key provision of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Pelindaba (and which came into effect on 15 July 2009), inter alia, that *“Each Party undertakes to maintain the highest standards of security and effective physical protection of nuclear materials, facilities and equipment to prevent theft or unauthorised use and handling. To that end each Party, inter alia, undertakes to apply measures of physical protection equivalent to those provided for in the [CPPNM] and in recommendations and guidelines developed by IAEA for that purpose”*.
- iii. Noted some key actions to be taken by Member States in conformity with national obligations and responsibility for physical protection under the Amendment to establish or strengthen requisite legislative and regulatory framework and an authority for implementation, as well as taking other administrative measures necessary for the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities.
- iv. Noted that Member States could benefit from IAEA legislative assistance in performing pertinent gap analysis for revising their respective legislation, as well as other technical assistance which may include, International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS), training of personnel such as border guards, provision of equipment (such as border surveillance equipment and radiation portal monitors), technical visits and physical protection upgrades, and for capacity building in regulatory bodies.
- v. Noted also that, international cooperation was considered important in light of the new provisions of the Amendment, and that despite the emphasis on confidentiality in the CPPNM and its Amendment, enhanced transparency among States Parties can help in facilitating the protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities, as well as in the area of mutual legal assistance.

6. It is quite gratifying that some of the Member States that participated in the Regional Workshop have since ratified the Amendment to the CPPNM. Nigeria, both as a committed Party and Facilitator, is therefore quite pleased with the coming into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM on May 8, 2016, particularly at a time that global security realities have imposed additional responsibilities on the international community to ensure a sustained global nuclear security regime, particularly with the increased and expanded use of nuclear materials, globally.

7. The key issues for consideration at the national level would include: what, how and when, could countries take pertinent actions to ensure universalization of the CPPNM and its Amendment. On the multilateral plank, the key questions would be: What, how and when could agencies such as the IAEA provide support to Member States to initiate actions or strengthen programmes to universalize the

CPPNM. Some major activities in this regard, as already elucidated by Ms. Johnson, IAEA Director of Office of Legal Affairs, would entail the following:

- i. Emplacement of the requisite legislative and regulatory frameworks by countries with possible assistance from the Agency. Here, consideration should be given to the desirability of domesticating the Convention and its Amendment vis-à-vis national legislation. Which option may be preferred as it relates to individual countries.
- ii. The need for a clear identification and empowerment of a Competent Authority for implementation, while making an unambiguous distinction in responsibilities between the Competent Authority and Promotional Agencies/Operators of facilities, in adherence to the national obligations and responsibility for physical protection under the Amendment as enshrined in Fundamentals 3D & 3E under Article 2A.
- iii. Emplacement of the physical infrastructural systems to implement it.

8. It is pertinent for all Member States, particularly, State Parties to the CPPNM to demonstrate renewed commitment to constructively work together to detect and prevent the wrongful use of nuclear materials by non-state actors. It is therefore the expectation that the outcomes of this International Conference on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Facilities would concretize the frameworks and enhance the mechanisms for information sharing and promoting universalization of the CPPNM through adherence to it by States that are not yet party to it.

9. Please, permit me also to inform that, on its own, Nigeria has validated and finalized its Draft Regulations on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities to fulfil the objects of the amended CPPNM. Consequently, Nigeria also calls on all State Parties to the CPPNM to constructively work together to detect and prevent access to nuclear materials and facilities by non-state actors, unauthorized groups and individuals.

10. As a further affirmation of our national commitment, Nigeria, under the auspices of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), has established of a National Nuclear Security Centre (NNSC) in Abuja. The facilities to operationalize the NNSC, are currently under development at the Nuclear Technology Centre in Sheda-Abuja, and will provide the backbone and architectural support for the attainment of its objects. The NNSC is also 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 regime. It is also strategically positioned to adequately support both national and regional initiatives.

11. Noting that the entronement of a robust regime for the physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities in consonance with the CPPNM would depend on the availability of a virile, professional and experienced workforce, derived from a well-articulated education and training programme, in Nigeria, substantial national effort has been directed at evolving and implementing a

national strategy for nuclear security education and training. Some of the components include the following, amongst others:

- imbedding of security and safety culture as an intrinsic component in the training of nuclear professionals;
- interfacing with relevant national security agencies to strengthen national security commitment to the programmes from the outset, as has already being initiated through the establishment of a national nuclear security centre;
- investing in requisite nuclear security infrastructure and systems; and
- networking and partnering with other national and international frameworks, such as the US DoE Partnership for Nuclear Security (PNS), the IAEA and the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) for national capacity building.

12. Inter-agency cooperation within countries is also quite crucial. In Nigeria, under the auspices of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and other national stakeholder organizations, the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) has catalysed the development of curricula on courses in nuclear security for training a wide array of personnel in the security services and other national institutions. This is aimed at strengthening the national nuclear security architecture, and to meet the national obligations to various international commitments, including the CPPNM.

13. At the regional level, sharing of experiences between Member States and collective efforts for capacity building are relevant. Thus, the planned IAEA Regional Nuclear Security School for Africa to be hosted in Abuja, Nigeria, would further open-up, yet another important plank for the development and building of the expertise of critical nuclear security personnel for the effective management of nuclear security activities and the implementation of key aspects of the Amended CPPNM in the respective countries.

14. The coming into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM, expectedly has strengthened and adequately bridged the weak link in the international nuclear security framework. It is thus, hoped that the architecture for the physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities can be further reinforced if all States ensure strict adherence to this important instrument. In this regard, significant global effort should be directed at networking and building the requisite national capacities of individual Member States, as well as streamlining the requisite set of actions to enhance and fast-track the implementation of the provisions of the Amended CPPNM. Nigeria is quite committed in this regard inbuilding and strengthening the requisite national infrastructure, galvanizing regional efforts and effectively participate in the international frameworks to achieve the objects of the CPPNM.

I thank you.