

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR
ABIODUN RICHARDS ADEJOLA AT THE CONFERENCE
ON DISARMAMENT (CD) PLENARY MEETING TO
CONSIDER TECHNICAL UPDATES TO THE CD RULES OF
PROCEDURE, 5TH AUGUST, 2021, GENEVA.**

Madam President,

Excellency's,

Distinguished Delegates,

Good morning and thank you Madam President for giving me the floor. May I also salute your effort in preparing and transmitting to member States the proposal on the linguistic and technical changes to the CD's Rules of Procedure.

2. Permit me also to thank Australia during its Presidency last year for first muting the idea of a linguistic and technical update to the CD's Rules of Procedure to reflect the current realities of mainstreaming gender in all aspects of our work and life.

3. It is however, sad that the Conference on Disarmament (CD) has failed for over two decades to make progress on its core mandate of negotiating legally-binding disarmament instruments. It is also

disturbing that over the past three (3) years the CD has failed to adopt a Programme of Work (POW).

4. Nevertheless, let it be placed on record that Nigeria has no misgivings regarding the proposal by Canada for a linguistic and technical update to the CD's Rules of Procedure, as it further mainstreams gender in the CD's work. Need I underscore that there are already progress to date in integrating gender perspectives in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament efforts by the United Nations. In the same vein, gender equality is in line with my country's constitution and my government has been working diligently to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of the nation.

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5. Arising from the above, Nigeria supports the proposal on linguistic and technical changes on the Rules of Procedure to make it more gender neutral. It is also Nigeria's belief that the planned change is merely a technical amendment.

6. However, given the suspicion and doubt the proposal has generated and in association with the suggestion by Pakistan; the P6 may look to conduct more consultations to assuage the doubts, suspicions

and concerns of some member States in order to ensure that we achieve consensus on this matter. Our attention is also drawn to the point raised by the distinguished Ambassador of China to the fact that the linguistic issue does not arise in the Chinese version of the Rules of Procedure. The CD Secretariat may wish to enlighten my delegation and others regarding this observation.

7. Madam President, the proposal for linguistic and technical update is noble and auspicious and my delegation believes that all efforts should be made to ensure it secures the necessary consensus among member States of the CD. Failure to arrive at a consensus on a simple matter as mainstreaming gender in the CD's activities will further send signals to the disarmament community that the Conference on Disarmament is indeed in murkier waters than initially construed.

Thank you for your attention.