OPENING REMARKS

BY

H.E. GEOFFREY ONYEAMA, HON. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NIGERIA, AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE PSC FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022

DURING THE

9TH HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON PEACE AND SECURITY “ASSISTING INCOMING AFRICAN MEMBERS ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IN PREPARING TO ADDRESS PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES ON THE CONTINENT”

ORAN, ALGERIA
7TH - 9TH DECEMBER 2022
Your Excellency, Ramtane Lamamra, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad of Algeria,

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Member States of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the African Members of the UN Security Council,

Your Excellencies, Friends of the Seminar,

Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union,

Your Excellency, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the African Union,

Distinguished Representatives of the United Nations Organization Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of UN Secretary-General to the AU and Head of the UNOAU,

Distinguished Partners and Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing my profound gratitude and appreciation to our wonderful host, the Government and People of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria for the warm hospitality accorded us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Oran. Special appreciation goes to my good friend and brother, Minister Ramtane Lamamra, for his efforts to bring us all here, not once, but for last several years.

2. In my capacity as Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council for the month of December, 2022, I welcome you all to the 9th High Level Seminar on Peace and Security,

3. Let me assure you of Nigeria’s unwavering commitment in ensuring our collective desired path to constructively engage and actively promote continental peace and security during our leadership of the Council for the month of December and throughout our terms in the Peace and Security Council.

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. As we are well aware, the High-Level Seminar, also known as the “Oran Process” has been institutionalized to take place annually in Oran, Algeria. This forum provides us all a unique opportunity, particular the PSC and the A3, to exchange ideas aimed at enhancing our efforts and coordination, towards championing the African common positions on peace and security issues of interest to Africa, in the UN Security Council. We deeply appreciate the generous support we continue to receive from the Friends of the Seminar and our partners which contributes to making this Seminar a great success.

5. As we bid farewell to Kenya, whose tenure in the UN Security Council is coming to an end during this 9th High Level Seminar, we congratulate Mozambique on her successful election into the UN Security Council and welcome her into the fold of the A3. Without fail, I must express my sincere gratitude to Kenya for her exemplary leadership of the A3 during her tenure in the UN Security Council and I believe that during this Seminar we are all going to benefit from her rich experience.
Let me at this juncture express my immense appreciation to the A3 for the way and manner they have promoted and articulated African common positions, interests and concerns on peace and security issues concerning the Continent and its people, within the decision-making processes of the UN Security Council (UNSC). May I also assure the incoming Member of the A3 (Mozambique) of our collective commitment to supporting you, as you discharge your enormous mandate in the Council.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am eager to inform that our gathering in Oran is timely and the choice of our topics for deliberations could not have been more relevant and pertinent, given the myriad of challenges facing Africa, particularly the increasing proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, rising scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as recent trends of Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) in some countries on our continent.

It is clearly evident that these developments are negatively affecting national, regional and continental stability and undermining our drive towards achieving AU Agenda 2063 and our flagship project ‘Silencing the Guns in Africa’, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That is why we must continue to act collectively, in unity and solidarity in our fight against these threats.

It is in this regard that, I once again appreciate the high level of participants and discussants in this Seminar, which
clearly demonstrates the importance and commitment we attach to these burning issues on our continent.

Excellencies Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. It is my fervent hope that at the end this three-day Seminar, we would be able to come up with practical recommendations on best means and ways of further enhancing the cooperation, coordination and collaboration between the PSC and the A3, as well as enhance the effectiveness of the A3 in discharging its mandate.

12. Once again, I thank you all for your readiness to actively participate in the High-Level Seminar, and on this note, let me extend my best wishes for a successful and fruitful deliberation.

13. I thank you for your kind attention.