



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCLUDES INDUCTION FOR AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS DESIGNATE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has successfully concluded a three-day induction programme for Ambassadors and High Commissioners Designate, reaffirming Nigeria's commitment to a dynamic, results-driven, and globally responsive foreign policy. The induction was held at the Rotunda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th April 2026.

Speaking at the closing ceremony in Abuja, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dunoma Umar Ahmed, PhD, underscored the strategic importance of the induction in preparing the envoys as principal representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He noted that the programme provided a comprehensive orientation on contemporary diplomatic practice, national development priorities, and the evolving global landscape.

Ambassador Ahmed highlighted that the induction was deliberately structured to reposition Nigeria's diplomacy as a key instrument for national development, with a strong emphasis on economic diplomacy. He stressed that Nigerian Missions abroad are expected to actively promote investment, facilitate trade, and foster strategic partnerships that will yield measurable benefits for the country. The Permanent Secretary further emphasised the critical role of operational efficiency, financial discipline, and adherence to public service regulations in enhancing the mission's effectiveness. He also underscored the importance of clear and timely diplomatic communication in supporting informed decision-making at the Ministry's headquarters.

On multilateral engagement, Ambassador Ahmed reiterated Nigeria's aspiration for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council and called for strategic engagement within the United Nations system, as well as strengthened

leadership in African and global affairs. He also highlighted the growing importance of citizen-centred diplomacy, particularly in the provision of efficient consular services and structured engagement with the Nigerian diaspora. The programme also reinforced the relevance of cultural diplomacy in projecting Nigeria's image internationally, as well as the need for strict compliance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961), protocol standards, and diplomatic etiquette as essential pillars of professional conduct.

While acknowledging the significant prospects presented by the programme, including enhanced policy alignment, improved economic diplomacy outcomes, and strengthened professional competence, the Permanent Secretary also identified key challenges confronting Nigeria's missions abroad. These include resource constraints, capacity gaps in emerging areas such as digital diplomacy, bureaucratic bottlenecks, and inter-agency coordination issues, and persistent negative perceptions of Nigeria in some jurisdictions.

To address these challenges, he outlined a series of recommendations, including the institutionalization of continuous capacity-building programmes, improved resource allocation to missions, strengthened economic diplomacy tools, enhanced inter-agency collaboration, and the development of a robust strategic communication framework to improve Nigeria's global image.

In his closing remarks, the Permanent Secretary, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, expressed appreciation to all participants, resource persons, and organizers for their contributions to the success of the programme. He congratulated the Ambassadors and High Commissioners Designate on their appointments and wished them successful and impactful tenures.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr
Spokesperson,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Thursday, 29 April 2026**