



## **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja**

### **Press Release**

**No: MFA/PR/2026/062**

#### **NIGERIA CONGRATULATES DR. TAOHEED OLUFEMI ELIAS ON HIS ELECTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION.**

The Federal Government of Nigeria warmly congratulates Dr. Taoheed Olufemi Elias on his election as a Member of the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) during the 77th Session of the Commission held in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 5, 2026.

Dr. Elias was elected to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Kenya's representative, Professor Phoebe Okowa, after a highly competitive process involving candidates from Botswana and Ghana. His election represents a significant recognition of Nigeria's longstanding contributions to the development and advancement of international law and multilateral diplomacy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs notes with pride that Dr. Elias brings to the Commission decades of distinguished service and extensive experience in international legal affairs. He previously served as Registrar of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) with the rank of United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and held several prominent international legal positions, including Legal Adviser and Director at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Executive Secretary of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal, and Legal Adviser at the United Nations Compensation Commission.

The International Law Commission, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1947, plays a pivotal role in the progressive development and codification of international law, addressing issues relating to state responsibility, international agreements, immunity, dispute settlement, piracy, and other critical areas of global governance.

The Federal Government is confident that Dr. Elias will bring his vast expertise, professionalism, and commitment to the rule of law to bear in advancing the

**work of the Commission and promoting the principles of justice, international cooperation, and peaceful coexistence among nations.**

**The Federal Government once again congratulates Dr. Elias on this remarkable achievement and wishes him a successful tenure in the discharge of his responsibilities on the Commission.**

**Signed:**

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebiefa, anipr  
Spokesperson,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja.  
Thursday, 7 May 2026**