



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Press Release

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NIGERIA AND SWEDEN DEEPEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, received in audience the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Nigeria, Her Excellency Anna Westerholm, on Monday, 15th June 2026, as both countries reviewed the state of bilateral relations and explored new opportunities for enhanced cooperation across key sectors of mutual interest. The meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to reflect on the strong and enduring friendship between Nigeria and Sweden, which has continued to flourish through decades of diplomatic engagement, mutual respect, shared values, and constructive cooperation in areas of development, trade, innovation, governance, education, and sustainable growth.

Discussions focused on expanding collaboration in emerging sectors of strategic importance, particularly digital innovation, information technology, the creative economy, cultural diplomacy, film production, gaming technology, and the broader digital ecosystem. Both parties acknowledged the immense potential for cooperation between Nigeria's vibrant creative industry and Sweden's globally recognised leadership in innovation, technology, and digital entrepreneurship.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs underscored the importance Nigeria attaches to cultural diplomacy as a strategic instrument for strengthening bilateral relations, fostering greater understanding among peoples, and promoting economic opportunities through creative industries. She noted that Nigeria's cultural and creative sectors continue to serve as powerful drivers of national development and international engagement. The Minister reiterated Nigeria's commitment to creating an enabling environment for foreign investment and mutually beneficial economic partnerships. She emphasized that the Federal Government remains focused on attracting investments into strategic sectors capable of accelerating economic growth, industrialisation, job creation, and sustainable development.

Ambassador Westerholm highlighted Sweden's interest in deepening engagement with Nigeria in the areas of culture, film, music, gaming, digital content development, and innovation. She noted that strengthened collaboration

in these sectors would complement existing cooperation and create new opportunities for youth empowerment, skills development, and economic growth in both countries.

The meeting reviewed ongoing bilateral engagements in trade and investment and discussed measures aimed at facilitating stronger commercial relations between Nigerian and Swedish businesses. Particular attention was given to initiatives designed to enhance economic diplomacy and encourage increased private sector participation in both markets. It also highlighted the growing significance of cultural exchanges and public diplomacy initiatives in strengthening bilateral relations. Both parties acknowledged the role of cultural events, artistic collaborations, tourism promotion, and people-to-people interactions in deepening understanding and friendship between the peoples of Nigeria and Sweden.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebiefa, anipr
Spokesperson,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja.
Monday 15, June 2026**