



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

### **Press Release**

**No: MFA/PR/2026/105**

#### **NIGERIA, CHAD DEEPEN BILATERAL COOPERATION AS CHADIAN ENVOY DELIVERS PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO AFRICA WATER SUMMIT**

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, received in audience, Special Envoy of the President of Chad, His Excellency, Tahir Hammid Nguilin, Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget, Economy, Planning and International Cooperation of the Republic of Chad, who delivered a special message from His Excellency, President Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

The Chadian Minister was accompanied by senior officials of the Government of Chad and formally presented a letter inviting President Tinubu to participate in the forthcoming Africa Water Summit, which will officially launch the Water Forward Initiative in Africa, a programme being implemented in collaboration with the World Bank and other multilateral development partners.

The Chadian Minister explained that the Summit seeks to elevate water security as a strategic continental priority by mobilising sustainable financing for water resources, irrigation, sanitation, agriculture and livestock development. He noted that participating countries would sign country-specific partnership agreements with the World Bank and other development partners, while African Heads of State and Government are expected to adopt a declaration placing water security at the centre of Africa's sustainable development agenda. He further underscored Nigeria's strategic importance to the success of the initiative, stressing that the participation of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu would significantly strengthen continental efforts towards addressing Africa's water challenges and promoting inclusive socio-economic development.

Receiving the invitation on behalf of the President of Nigeria, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed appreciation to President Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno for the special invitation and conveyed Nigeria's warm fraternal regards to the Government and people of the Republic of Chad. Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu noted that the proposed Summit comes at a

particularly significant time, given the growing importance of water security to sustainable development, food production, environmental protection, climate resilience and regional stability. She recalled the recent engagements between Nigeria and Chad on issues affecting the Lake Chad Basin, observing that both countries have continued to work closely through bilateral and multilateral frameworks to address the challenges arising from the shrinking of Lake Chad, environmental degradation, insecurity and the socio-economic impact on communities whose livelihoods depend on the Basin.

The Honourable Minister stated that Nigeria considers the restoration and sustainable management of Lake Chad as a strategic priority, noting that the revitalisation of the Basin would enhance agriculture, fisheries, navigation, commerce, irrigation, livestock production and regional integration, while contributing significantly to poverty reduction and lasting peace across the region. She further emphasised that the development of water infrastructure remains indispensable to addressing the root causes of insecurity by creating economic opportunities and improving the livelihoods of millions of people living within the Lake Chad Basin.

The Honourable Minister welcomed Chad's proposal for stronger continental cooperation on water governance and expressed support for closer collaboration among Member States, development partners and relevant regional institutions to advance practical solutions for sustainable water resource management across Africa. She assured the Chadian delegation that the invitation would be promptly conveyed to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, through the appropriate channels for his consideration, while reaffirming Nigeria's commitment to the objectives of the Africa Water Summit and the Water Forward Initiative.

Both sides reaffirmed the longstanding cordial relations between Nigeria and Chad, founded on shared history, geographical proximity, common security interests and strong cooperation within the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and other regional and multilateral platforms. They reiterated their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas including water resources management, agriculture, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, regional security, trade and economic integration.

**Signed:**

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr  
Spokesperson**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja**  
**Tuesday 30, June 2026**