



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

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56TH SESSION OF ECOWAS MEDIATION AND SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL

The Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, participated in the 56th Session of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council on Wednesday, 15th July 2026, at the capital city of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Speaking in response to the welcome address and statements by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr Omar Alieu Touray, the Chairperson of the Council and the Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, His Excellency, Timothy Musa Kabba, as well as the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace & Security and the Chairman of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff, respectively, Ambassador Enikanolaiye presented a robust and measured response that better described the inspiring leadership of Nigeria within ECOWAS and the sub-region at large.

The Minister anchored his intervention on six thematic and roundly structured contexts as follows:

Community Levy: The Minister stressed the need for prompt payment of Community Levy by ECOWAS member States, as the strategic "motherload" for a functional organisation such as ECOWAS, noting Nigeria's strong and demonstrative leadership on this score, despite the country's many needs and myriad challenges.

Challenges of Terrorism and other forms of Criminality: The Honourable Minister of State was emphatic on the need for a reinvigorated approach in the affairs of the region and for ECOWAS to act in unison by urgently addressing the menace of terrorism, piracy, transnational organised crimes, banditry and similar vices, particularly from a position of strength and crushing lethality. He cited Nigeria's

new approach of an all-out war and hot pursuit to inflict maximum damage to these festering acts of criminality. He further pointed to the recent remarkable successes recorded in the release of kidnapped victims and arrest of criminal elements across Nigeria, largely facilitated through collaboration and coordination among security, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies. He further pointed to the successes recorded by Nigeria in unhindered economic activities in the Gulf of Guinea as one of the many successes of our country's leadership.

Democracy and Good Governance: Speaking extensively on the milestone recorded by the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, in Nigeria's political and governance space, particularly in harnessing state resources to transform the fortunes of citizens, Ambassador Enikanolaiye assured the forum of Nigeria's ongoing preparations for the general and presidential elections in 2027. He recalled, with satisfaction, Nigeria's record of political transitions since May 1999 and assured of free and fair elections that will reflect the popular will of the Nigerian people. He seized the opportunity to invite ECOWAS members to witness the forthcoming national elections in Nigeria next year, emphasising that Nigeria has nothing to hide from regional and international observers of the country's electoral process.

Furthermore, the Minister spoke on what he termed the raging Afrophobic sentiments and violence in South Africa, where citizens of other African States are being hounded and sometimes killed through mob actions. He described the situation in South Africa as most despicable and reminded ECOWAS member States of the pivotal role played by Nigeria and other brotherly African countries in the fight against apartheid and minority white rule in South Africa.

He went down memory lane by recounting the surcharges and deductions from accounts of public servants in Nigeria, to fund the fight against apartheid, among other financial, material and diplomatic contributions of Nigeria to this epic struggle at the time. Ambassador Enikanolaiye therefore called on the Council to come up with a firm, strongly-worded and collective position to be submitted to the African Union as earlier proposed by Ghana.

Honourable Minister also cited the need for continued dialogue and engagement with Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, the three members of the Alliance of Sahelian States (AES), including the situation in Guinea Bissau, as brother African

nations, considering the need for inclusion and participation to jointly address the challenges of democracy, regional peace, stability, security and development in West Africa and the Sahel. He called for relevant, innovative and effective mechanisms and strategies for engaging the AES in the light of multipolarity in the world that has exacerbated the security dynamics in the region.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Wednesday 15, July 2026**