



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECEIVES WOMEN AMBASSADORS OF NIGERIA NETWORK (WAN-NET)

The Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, on Monday, 3rd August 2026, received members of the Women Ambassadors of Nigeria Network (WAN-NET) on a courtesy visit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarters in Tafawa Balewa House, Abuja.

The visit provided an opportunity for the Women Ambassadors to congratulate the Honourable Minister on his well-deserved appointment and to introduce the objectives and activities of WAN-NET, a professional association of serving and retired female ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Speaking on behalf of the Network, Ambassador Dr Eniola Ajayi, Chairperson of WAN-NET, commended the Honourable Minister's distinguished career in the Nigerian Foreign Service, his exemplary professionalism, and his unwavering commitment to advancing Nigeria's interests on the global stage. She noted that his wealth of diplomatic experience and deep understanding of international relations position him strongly to support the leadership of the Ministry at a critical period in Nigeria's foreign policy.

The delegation highlighted the mandate of WAN-NET, which includes harnessing the collective experience and expertise of its members to support Nigeria's foreign policy objectives, mentoring the next generation of diplomats, and promoting excellence in diplomatic service. The Network also assured the Honourable Minister of its readiness to work collaboratively with the Ministry in areas where its members' experience could add value, while seeking the Ministry's goodwill, cooperation, and support in strengthening its activities.

In his remarks, the Honourable Minister of State expressed appreciation to the delegation for the visit and their kind words of congratulations. He acknowledged the significant contributions of women in Nigeria's diplomatic

service and commended the establishment of WAN-NET as a platform for strengthening mentorship, advocacy, and professional excellence within the Foreign Service.

The Minister reiterated the Ministry's commitment to repositioning Nigeria's foreign policy in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, emphasizing a people-centred approach that prioritises national development and the welfare of Nigerians. He noted that Nigeria's foreign engagements must translate into tangible benefits for citizens, particularly in the areas of economic growth, investment attraction, innovation, and diaspora engagement.

Ambassador Enikanolaiye further underscored the importance of strengthening institutional capacity within the Ministry, addressing funding challenges, enhancing professionalism, and improving policy coordination mechanisms. He also called for increased public diplomacy and advocacy to raise awareness of the role of foreign policy in national development.

On gender issues, the Honourable Minister acknowledged existing challenges affecting female officers in the Foreign Service, including career progression, work-life balance, and policy limitations. He reaffirmed his commitment to promoting gender inclusivity, reviewing relevant policies, and supporting initiatives that enhance the participation and advancement of women in the diplomatic service.

As part of practical measures to support working mothers within the Ministry, the Honourable Minister pledged to establish a crèche for nursing mothers, aimed at creating a more supportive and family-friendly work environment for female officers and staff.

The Minister further emphasized the importance of mentorship and institutional reforms, noting that the Ministry would continue to strengthen structures that support capacity development, discipline, and merit-based progression.

Members of the delegation, in their individual remarks, expressed strong support for the Honourable Minister's reform agenda and commended his commitment to professionalism, institutional revitalisation, and gender inclusivity. They pledged their continued cooperation and readiness to contribute their expertise

towards advancing Nigeria's diplomatic objectives and strengthening the Ministry's operations.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to fostering closer collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and WAN-NET in advancing Nigeria's foreign policy priorities and enhancing the country's global standing.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs remains committed to advancing Nigeria's national interests through strategic engagement, effective diplomacy, and inclusive partnerships.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Tuesday 4th August 2026**