



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

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NIGERIA, IRAN REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO DEEPENING BILATERAL COOPERATION

The Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, received in audience the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Nigeria, H.E. Gholamreza Mahdavi Raja, in Abuja on 20 August 2026, for discussions on strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between Nigeria and Iran. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the state of bilateral relations and exchange views on political, economic, security and regional issues of mutual interest.

The Iranian Ambassador congratulated the Honourable Minister of State on his appointment and welcomed the recent progress towards the exchange of Ambassadors between the two countries. He noted that the presence of Ambassadors in both capitals would strengthen communication, facilitate high-level engagement and provide greater momentum to bilateral relations, which date back more than five decades. He described Nigeria as an important country in West Africa and a significant partner for Iran, particularly given both countries' participation in several international and multilateral platforms.

The Ambassador called for the revival of the Nigeria-Iran Joint Commission and the proposed political consultative mechanism between the two Foreign Ministries. He noted that the last session of the Joint Commission was held about four years ago and expressed Iran's readiness to convene the next session in Abuja. He emphasised that these mechanisms would provide an institutional framework for addressing bilateral, regional and international issues and identifying practical areas of cooperation.

On economic cooperation, the Ambassador expressed Iran's desire to move beyond traditional trade relations towards investment, joint ventures and technology transfer. He identified energy, oil and gas, mining, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, construction and automotive technology as areas

with significant potential. He also highlighted Iran's expertise in compressed natural gas (CNG) technology and expressed readiness to support Nigeria's efforts to develop cleaner and more efficient transportation solutions.

The Ambassador further proposed enhanced cooperation in knowledge-based industries, technology and innovation, noting the potential for Iranian companies and institutions to support Nigeria in areas of technical expertise and capacity development. He also highlighted the importance of greater cooperation in counter-terrorism and regional security, particularly in view of the security challenges confronting countries in the Sahel and other parts of Africa.

In his response, the Honourable Minister of State expressed appreciation for the Ambassador's visit and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to facilitating stronger engagement between Nigeria and Iran. He welcomed the exchange of Ambassadors and stressed that effective diplomatic representation in both capitals would enhance communication, coordination and the implementation of bilateral initiatives. He also agreed on the importance of reviving the Joint Commission as an institutional framework for reviewing the full range of bilateral relations and achieving tangible outcomes.

The Honourable Minister of State emphasised that economic diplomacy remains a key priority of Nigeria's foreign policy and noted that bilateral relations should increasingly deliver practical economic benefits to the peoples of both countries. He welcomed Iran's interest in investment, joint ventures and technology transfer and identified CNG transportation, agriculture, services and other sectors as areas where greater cooperation could produce mutually beneficial results. He also stressed the importance of maintaining peace and security as a necessary foundation for sustainable economic cooperation and stronger bilateral relations.

The meeting also underscored the value of Nigeria-Iran cooperation within multilateral platforms, including the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, BRICS, the Group of 77 and other international fora. Both sides recognised the importance of sustained political consultations and closer coordination on regional and global developments, while expressing the hope that improved regional stability would create a more conducive environment for expanded economic and diplomatic engagement.

The meeting further touched on regional developments and the importance of maintaining open channels of communication on matters affecting international peace and security. The Iranian Ambassador reiterated his country's readiness to sustain dialogue and coordination with Nigeria and expressed appreciation for the continued engagement of the Nigerian Government on issues of mutual concern.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening Nigeria-Iran relations through sustained political dialogue, the revival of bilateral institutional mechanisms, increased trade and investment, technology transfer, security cooperation and closer coordination within multilateral platforms. Both parties expressed confidence that the renewed diplomatic engagement would provide fresh impetus to the longstanding relationship and produce tangible benefits for the peoples of Nigeria and Iran.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr
Spokesperson,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Friday 21st August 2026**