



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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**NIGERIA CALLS FOR UN REFORM, STRONGER
MULTILATERALISM AND DEEPER INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AT 81ST UNGA**

Nigeria has called for urgent reform of the United Nations, stronger international cooperation and renewed commitment to diplomacy, dialogue and international law at the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) themed **“Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All.”**

In Nigeria’s national statement delivered during the General Debate of the 81st UNGA on Thursday, 24 September 2026, on behalf of His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by Vice President Kashim Shettima, GCON, Nigeria urged the international community to restore trust in international institutions.

Nigeria also reaffirmed its commitment to the UN Charter, its principles, and its purposes, underscoring the importance of dialogue, mutual respect and collective responsibility in advancing global peace and security.

A major focus of the address was the reform of the UN Security Council. Nigeria reiterated Africa’s position under the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration for at least two permanent and five non-permanent seats on the Council, stressing the need to reflect current global realities and ensure meaningful representation for Africa in decisions on international peace and security.

Nigeria recalled its international peacekeeping efforts, including its role in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Darfur, Mali and The Gambia. Nigeria also underscored its unwavering commitment to the promotion of peace, security and democratic governance through ECOWAS, the

African Union and Gulf of Guinea partnerships, emphasizing its readiness for greater responsibility in this regard.

The statement linked Nigeria's foreign policy to ongoing economic reforms, aligning sound macroeconomic management, stronger institutions, private-sector development and strategic public investment with its sustainable development commitments and by extension, Nigeria's contribution to peace, equity and prosperity in the world.

Nigeria called for greater technology transfer, capacity building and climate finance, to enable developing countries pursue economic growth while sustaining their commitment to climate action. Nigeria reaffirmed its commitment to its Energy Transition Plan and the Paris Agreement, including the goal of net-zero emissions by 2060.

Nigeria also highlighted the opportunities presented by artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. It noted its investments in digital infrastructure, broadband connectivity, innovation ecosystems, research institutions and technology entrepreneurship. Nigeria called for the responsible use of AI to advance healthcare, education, agriculture, governance and economic productivity.

On development financing and Africa's economic transformation, Nigeria called for the reform of the international financial architecture, and sought wider access to concessional financing and sustainable debt frameworks. It expressed support for innovative financing through private capital, blended finance, South-South cooperation and strategic partnerships. It recognized the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as crucial for expanding intra-African trade, strengthening regional value chains, promoting industrialisation and moving Africa towards greater value addition and knowledge-driven growth.

On peace and security, Nigeria called for stronger international cooperation against terrorism, organised crime, cyberattacks and illicit finance, urging the exchange of intelligence, building of institutional capacity, interruption of the financing of violence and prevention of illicit weapons that fuel conflicts. Drawing on its experience confronting Boko Haram, ISWAP and other armed groups, Nigeria emphasized that lasting security must be supported

by education, economic opportunities, accountable governance and the protection of the rights and dignity of communities.

Nigeria further called for urgent diplomatic efforts to address conflicts in Sudan and other war-affected countries. It urged all parties in the conflicts to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian access and respect international humanitarian and human rights law. Nigeria advocated greater attention to dialogue, reconciliation, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, noting that military victories alone cannot secure lasting peace.

While highlighting the prospects of Africa being an important driver of future global growth, Nigeria underscored Africa's resilience, ingenuity, youthful population, natural resources and expanding markets as key advantages for development. It called for the recognition of developing countries as essential partners in shaping global solutions and shared prosperity.

In closing, Nigeria pledged that it would continue to choose cooperation over confrontation, dialogue over division, hope over fear, and partnership over isolation, noting that these choices must guide the UN's responsiveness to the legitimate aspirations of all. It called on Member States to honour their obligations to one another and manage current global realities with justice, wisdom and compassion, if trust must be restored.

Nigeria underscored a reformed, inclusive and effective United Nations as sine qua non for a peaceful, just and sustainable world deserved by future generations. It highlighted humanity as the world's oldest citizenship, and peace as the inheritance owed to every child.

Signed:

**Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
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Friday, 25 September 2026**