



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

PRESS STATEMENT

NO: MFA/PR/2026/251

NIGERIA, AUSTRIA EXPAND BILATERAL COOPERATION IN TRADE, GREEN ENERGY AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Ambassador Dunoma Umar Ahmed, PhD**, held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs of Austria, **Ambassador Nikolaus Marschik**, on the margins of the 70th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna on 15 September 2026.

The meeting reviewed Nigeria-Austria relations and explored practical measures to strengthen political consultations and economic cooperation, with emphasis on translating longstanding cordial relations into tangible partnerships that advance shared aspirations and interests.

In the course of their deliberations, Ambassador Ahmed highlighted the positive impacts of Nigeria's economic reforms and diversification efforts, noting significant opportunities available in Nigeria's mining, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and manufacturing sectors. He expressed Nigeria's interest in attracting investment and technical partnerships that would enhance the country's industrial capacity, create employment opportunities and foster sustainable economic development.

The Permanent Secretary also proposed partnerships in modern technologies that could support Nigeria's efforts to combat terrorism and transnational organized crimes. He further explored opportunities for scientific and technical capacity building, including those arising from Nigeria's membership of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Ambassador Ahmed acknowledged Austria's expertise in hydropower and expressed Nigeria's interest in mobilizing private capital, including through green bonds and the Vienna Stock Exchange, for sustainable infrastructure and renewable-energy projects in Nigeria. He also encouraged Austrian businesses to invest in domestic production and value addition, particularly in textiles manufacturing.

Austria's new Strategy for engagement with Africa, developed in consultation with African partners, including Nigeria, featured

prominently in the bilateral discussions. Ambassador Marschik noted that the strategy represented a fundamental shift from donor-recipient approach towards a modern partnership based on mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

In this regard, Ambassador Marschik presented Austria's dual vocational education and training system, which combines technical education with workplace training, as a potential area of cooperation between Austria and Nigeria. The proposal recognizes opportunities for technical and vocational skills development in equipping Nigeria's growing youth population with relevant skills for employment, entrepreneurship and productivity. The two sides considered training and exchange programmes for young diplomats as a means of strengthening institutional cooperation and promoting greater understanding between the foreign services of both countries.

Both sides recognized opportunities for increased Austrian investment in Nigeria, particularly in renewable energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and green technologies. They also agreed on the importance of strengthening technical and institutional partnerships to advance scientific collaborations and capacity building in emerging technologies. The discussion also covered potential frameworks for cooperation in the areas of dignified migration as well as visa facilitation, with a view to promoting orderly mobility and strengthening people-to-people relations between the two countries.

The two officials exchanged views on developments in West Africa, and underscored the importance of enhanced security and defence cooperation in addressing cross-border challenges in the West Africa sub-region, especially through sustained international support for the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening international cooperation in pursuit of peace, security, and sustainable development.

The meeting underscored the shared aspiration of Nigeria and Austria to broaden and deepen their bilateral relations, with emphasis on strengthening political dialogue, expanding people-to-people exchanges and exploring new avenues for mutually beneficial economic partnerships.

Signed:

Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Friday, 25 September 2026