



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

PRESS STATEMENT

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UNGA 81: NIGERIA JOINS THE WORLD TO ADVANCE A UNITED NATIONS THAT DELIVERS FOR ALL

The Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, in an interview with a group of journalists in his office on Tuesday, 22 September 2026, affirmed Nigeria's readiness to engage the rest of the world in advancing a multilateral system that delivers for all during the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 81) in New York, United States of America.

Addressing the journalists, Ambassador Enikanolaiye asserted that His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, remained committed to sustaining Nigeria's strategic positioning for the promotion of meaningful and constructive international partnerships towards the enhancement of global peace, security, equity and sustainable development in consonance with Nigeria's foreign policy objectives.

To this end, he noted that President Tinubu had mandated Vice President Kashim Shettima, GCON, to lead Nigeria's delegation to the High-Level General Debate of the 81st UNGA, scheduled for 22nd to 28th September 2026 under the theme "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all." He added that the delegation, including Ministers and senior government officials, will deliver Nigeria's national positions on issues of global and national significance and participate in some important high-level events on the sidelines of the UNGA.

According to the Honourable Minister of State, some of the high-level engagements Nigeria would participate in include the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC); 3rd Africa Minerals Strategy Group High-

level Roundtable; High-level Event on Resetting Global Development, Global Africa Business Initiative; and A New Era for Education by Global Partnership for Education. He noted that these engagements would be in addition to bilateral meetings already confirmed, as well as some other high-level events on key thematic issues which are of interest to Nigeria. They include High-level Event on Climate Action and the Just Transition; High-level Plenary Meeting to Address the Existential Threats Posed by Sea Level Rise; High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response; and High-level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Ambassador Enikanolaiye noted that on 04 September 2026, Nigeria assumed the Chairmanship of the United Nations General Assembly's Fifth Committee, which is the Administrative and Budgetary Committee responsible for the UN's budgets, financial governance, human resources, oversight and institutional efficiency. He reiterated Nigeria's stance that the Committee must be a platform for reform, transparency, accountability and efficiency, ensuring that UN's expenditure delivers tangible benefits to Member States.

The Honourable Minister of State highlighted the following key areas of interest to Nigeria during UNGA 81:

1. Peace and Security: As Chair of the Fifth Committee and concurrently Chair of the C-34 Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, Nigeria will provide leadership on sustainable funding for peacekeeping and advance African solutions to African problems;
2. Economic Diplomacy and Reform of Global Financial Architecture: In line with President Tinubu's Four Ds foreign policy thrust, Nigeria will push for a more equitable global financial system that supports development financing for developing countries;
3. Climate Justice and Energy Transition: Nigeria will advocate for climate finance, technology transfer and a just energy transition that balances climate action with development needs;
4. UN Reform and Multilateralism: Nigeria supports comprehensive reform for a more representative and transparent UN fit for

purpose in the 21st century. In this regard, Nigeria will advance the call for two Permanent Seats for Africa, with it securing a seat given its unwavering commitment to global peace and security as demonstrated by its tremendous contributions to UN peacekeeping operations across the world;

5. Right to Development and Food Security: Nigeria will champion the right to development, food security and resilient health systems as sine qua non for sustainable development; and
6. Democracy, Demography and Diaspora: Nigeria will highlight its vibrant youth demography, democratic credentials and resourceful diaspora as strategic advantages for the enhancement of investment and development in Nigeria.

Concluding, Ambassador Enikanolaiye explained that the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly comprised the General Debate, thematic meetings, summits, and other side events. He informed that besides actively participating in these meetings, Nigeria will also hold bilateral engagements with leaders of other countries, international organisations, and development partners to advance Nigeria's national interest, foster President Tinubu's Four Ds foreign policy priorities and deepen strategic partnerships. He added that Nigeria will engage actively in other crucial committee meetings, scheduled through the end of the year, including those of the Fifth Committee, to be chaired by the country.

Signed:

Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
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