



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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NIGERIA, AFRICAN UNION STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON CREDIBLE ELECTIONS AHEAD OF 2027 POLLS

The Federal Government of Nigeria has reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining cooperation with the African Union (AU) in strengthening democratic governance and fostering credible, peaceful and inclusive electoral processes in Nigeria and the wider African continent.

The reaffirmation was made by the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, during his audience with the **African Union (AU) Pre-Election and Needs Assessment Mission to Nigeria**, led by H.E. Demeke Mekonnen Hassen, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, on 16 September 2026.

The visit of the AU Mission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was part of its seven-day engagement in Nigeria, aimed at assessing the country's election preparedness, and providing support to relevant Nigerian authorities and the civil society towards the successful conduct of the forthcoming 2027 general elections.

In his remarks, His Excellency Hassen thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria for the cooperation and support extended to him and his delegation since the commencement of their engagement in Nigeria. He highlighted the meetings his delegation earlier held with some key stakeholders, including some civil society organisations and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), to gather diverse perspectives on Nigeria's level of preparedness for the 2027 general elections. He sought the Ministry's assistance in facilitating further engagement with other key institutions relevant to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections in Nigeria.

His Excellency Hassen acknowledged the extensive preparations required to conduct elections in a large democratic nation like Nigeria, while underscoring the country's pivotal role in shaping democratic norms across the African continent. He assured of African Union's support in further enhancing inclusion, fairness and transparency in Nigeria's electoral process ahead of the 2027 general elections, in line with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance.

In his response, the Honourable Minister of State welcomed the AU Mission, underscoring the importance Nigeria attached to the delegation's visit, which came at a critical time when preparations for the 2027 electoral process were already underway. He applauded the mandate of the Mission as a demonstration of AU's continued commitment to consolidating democratic governance and promoting credible elections across the Continent, in line with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Furthermore, Ambassador Enikanolaiye commended the African Union and its institutions for its efforts and exertions in ensuring the conduct of free, fair, and peaceful elections across Africa. He acknowledged the immense contributions of the continental body to the deepening of democratic culture on the continent, which he noted Nigeria had significantly benefitted from.

The Honourable Minister of State assured the AU Mission of the full cooperation and support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant government institutions in facilitating its engagements in the country. He expressed hope that the Mission's engagements with INEC, political parties, civil society organisations, security agencies, development partners, and other stakeholders would provide valuable insights and recommendations to further strengthen the country's electoral system.

Ambassador Enikanolaiye restated the unwavering commitment of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections in 2027. He affirmed that Nigeria had successfully and orderly conducted democratic transitions since May 1999 and would continue along the positive trajectory, serving as a symbol and beacon of hope and progress in Africa and, by extension, the Global South.

He emphasized to the AU Pre-Election and Needs Assessment Mission that Nigeria expected a balanced and an objective assessment of the country's electoral processes and outcomes, which would be welcomed as a constructive contribution to ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's democratic institutions and enhance its electoral processes.

The engagement underscored the sustained cooperation between Nigeria and the African Union (AU) in promoting democratic governance, strengthening electoral institutions, and advancing the conduct of peaceful, transparent, credible and inclusive elections across the continent. It also reaffirmed the shared commitment of Nigeria and the AU to deepening democratic values, supporting effective electoral processes, strengthening public confidence in electoral processes and fostering peaceful transition of power in Africa.

Signed:

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Spokesperson
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Wednesday, 16 September 2026