MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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NIGERIA ASSURES ECOWAS OF ITS COMMITMENT TO CONDUCTING PEACEFUL AND CREDIBLE GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, has assured the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of Nigeria's unwavering commitment to ensuring a peaceful and credible electoral process towards the forthcoming 2027general elections.

Ambassador Odumegwu-Ojukwu gave the assurance while meeting with ECOWAS Pre-Election Fact-Finding Mission to Nigeria, led by His Excellency Victor Bockarie Foh, former Vice-President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, on Thursday, 29 October 2026, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja. H.E. Foh was accompanied by Ms. Francess Piagie Alghali, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, and other members of the Mission.

In his remarks, H.E. Foh explained that his Mission's mandate was to assess Nigeria's preparedness for the 2027 general elections, through consultations with relevant institutions, including the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), political parties, security agencies, civil society organisations and the media. He informed that earlier engagements with stakeholders, including the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), the Nigerian Civil Society Situation Room and the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), had been constructive. While observing that its preliminary assessment suggested a favourable environment for the forthcoming elections, H.E. Foh stated that the Mission's consultations were still ongoing, and a report would be submitted when completed, outlining its findings and recommendations.

Responding, Ambassador Odumegwu-Ojukwu reaffirmed the commitment of the Federal Government of Nigeria to conducting peaceful, credible, transparent and inclusive elections in accordance with Nigeria's Constitution and applicable electoral laws. She described the 2027 general election process as a defining one, expressing optimism that it would reinforce democracy in the country and the wider West African sub-region.

She noted that Nigeria recognized the imperative of institutional preparedness, transparent voter accreditation, effective result management, and timely resolution of electoral disputes in building confidence in the country's electoral system. She also stated that Nigeria took seriously, robust coordination among security agencies for the protection of candidates, electoral officials, observers and voters during elections, while ensuring that security personnel discharge their duties professionally, impartially and in accordance with the country's human rights obligations.

While underscoring the importance of voter education and effective law enforcement against electoral offences, the Honourable Minister highlighted the roles of political parties, civil society, traditional institutions and the media in promoting peaceful elections. She decried the risks posed by misinformation and disinformation, stressing the need for accurate, accessible and timely electoral information.

She identified opportunities to improve practical measures to enhance electoral participation of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, and acknowledged the value of credible election observation in promoting transparency, strengthening public confidence and identifying areas for improvement throughout the electoral process.

His Excellency Foh welcomed the Minister's assurances and expressed optimism about Nigeria's electoral preparedness for the 2027 general elections.

He emphasized the need for continued stakeholder engagement and sustained efforts to address observations, noting that Nigeria's success in conducting credible elections in 2027 would have wider significance for democratic governance and stability across West Africa.

The meeting ended with both sides reaffirming their commitment to promoting democratic governance, stability, peace and prosperity in West Africa.

Signed:
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