



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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NIGERIA, UNITED KINGDOM MOVE TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL COOPERATION ACROSS DIVERSE SPHERES

Nigeria and the United Kingdom (UK) have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and translating existing agreements into tangible outcomes. This was the outcome of a meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dunoma Umar Ahmed, PhD, and Ms. Christiana Scott, Director-General, Diplomatic Network, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), held on Monday, 19 October 2026, in Abuja.

Discussions focused on consolidating the longstanding relations between both countries and advancing the commitments arising from the last State Visit of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to the UK. Both sides identified the Defence and Security Partnership, and the Migration, Justice and Home Affairs Dialogue as key frameworks for strengthening coordination and monitoring progress on shared priorities.

Ambassador Ahmed highlighted opportunities for expanded cooperation in solid minerals, agriculture, renewable energy, transport and industry. He emphasised local value addition, technology transfer, job creation and sustainable growth as priorities in Nigeria's bilateral engagement with the UK. He also called for improved access to the UK market through the easing of restrictions for Nigerian products.

The Permanent Secretary outlined the Four Ds of the foreign policy priorities of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Administration—Demography, Development, Diaspora and Democracy—highlighting the strategic importance of the Nigerian diaspora in advancing economic cooperation and deepening people-to-people ties.

Ambassador Ahmed reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to African-led solutions to regional challenges, the strengthening of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as

the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a catalyst for continental economic integration.

He stressed the need for a structured follow-up mechanism with clear timelines, institutional responsibilities and measurable targets to ensure effective implementation of bilateral agreements.

In her remarks, Ms. Scott acknowledged Nigeria's economic reform efforts and expressed the UK's interest in facilitating greater participation by British businesses in emerging investment ventures in Nigeria. She also disclosed plans for business engagements in Lagos, including discussions on opportunities in the port sector.

The Director General reiterated the UK's commitment to supporting regional security and stability efforts, particularly through its Sahel strategy, which prioritises diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance and economic resilience.

Both sides emphasised the need to address the underlying causes of socio-economic drivers of insecurity alongside conventional security measures. They reaffirmed their shared commitment to combating terrorism, violent extremism and transnational security threats through enhanced intelligence-sharing, technological support and institutional capacity-building.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views on democratic governance, credible electoral processes and the growing challenges posed by misinformation and artificial intelligence-generated content. Discussions further covered preparations for the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda, including dialogue on the historical legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. Other areas of cooperation discussed included food security, rail infrastructure, electrification, climate action, green finance and agricultural value chains.

Both sides agreed to sustain diplomatic engagement, strengthen institutional cooperation and pursue practical partnerships for the mutual benefit of Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

Signed:
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