



## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA**

### **PRESS STATEMENT**

**NO: MFA/PR/2026/270**

### **NIGERIA EXTENDS CONDOLENCES OVER LOSS OF LIVES OFF THE COAST OF DJIBOUTI, CALLS FOR MORE ACTION AGAINST CAUSES OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

The Federal Government of Nigeria is profoundly saddened by the tragic capsizing of a migrant boat off the coast of Djibouti between 8 and 9 October, 2026, resulting in the loss of nearly 140 lives, including 15 children, while scores of others remain missing, as reported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Nigeria extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expresses solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti as well as those affected by the unfortunate incident.

Nigeria notes that the tragedy underscores the grave dangers associated with irregular migration routes where migrants risk their lives in pursuit of economic opportunities. It highlights the urgent need to address the underlying causes of irregular migration, intensify efforts to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, as well as promote safe, orderly and regular migration in line with relevant African Union (AU) frameworks and applicable international instruments.

The Federal Government of Nigeria emphasizes that protecting migrants, particularly children and other vulnerable persons, is a shared responsibility that requires sustained cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as relevant regional and international organisations. Such collaboration is imperative to prevent the loss of life, uphold the rights and dignity of migrants, and ensure that migration is managed in a safe, humane and orderly manner.

Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to working with the United Nations (UN), the AU and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen cooperation on migration management, raise awareness on the dangers of irregular migration and advance practical measures to address its root causes.

The Federal Government of Nigeria reiterates its deepest sympathies to all those affected by the disaster and calls for renewed collective action to safeguard the dignity and safety of human life along migration corridors across Africa and beyond.

**Signed:**  
**Oluwafemi Adeniyi**  
**Spokesperson**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja**

**Tuesday, 13 October 2026**