



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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NIGERIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL UNITY AT HISTORIC ECOWAS–AES MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE IN DAKAR

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria participated actively in the inaugural Session of the Ministerial Dialogue on Cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Confederation of Sahel States (AES) held on Saturday, 17 October 2026 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

The landmark meeting was convened to lay the foundations for structured dialogue and cooperation between ECOWAS and the AES Confederation, with deliberations guided by a shared spirit of fraternity, mutual respect, and deep historical and socio-cultural ties.

Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, emphasized the strategic importance of the dialogue process to Nigeria and the broader West African sub-region. He stressed the strong bonds of geography, history, culture and social interconnectedness of the peoples across ECOWAS and the AES, affirming the need to build on those fraternal ties to address common and emerging challenges such as the management of free movement of persons, goods and services; peace, security, and terrorism; the deficit of infrastructure; as well as poverty and food insecurity across the region.

Highlighting practical steps toward regional cohesion, he disclosed that Nigeria is currently taking proactive measures to revive the moribund Joint Commissions between Nigeria and the Sahelian nations of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, to revitalize direct bilateral cooperation, economic integration and security partnerships.

As a key outcome of the discussions, the parties agreed to establish joint thematic working groups on identified areas, tasked with conducting technical exchanges and perspectives to develop a comprehensive cooperation framework agreement that would guide future relations between ECOWAS and the AES.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of the three AES countries, the ECOWAS Chair of the Council of Ministers H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang (Minister of African Integration, Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad) and the Coordinator of the AES Council of Ministers, H.E. Mr. Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré, (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad). Upon its conclusion, participating delegations expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, as well as the Government and people of Senegal for hosting the Session, their warm hospitality and their steadfast commitment to West African integration.

Nigeria strongly reiterates its determination to work closely with all regional partners to build a balanced and realistic cooperation framework that guarantees the sovereignty, dignity and well-being of all West African citizens.

Signed:
Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Saturday, 17 October 2026