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NIGERIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH AfDB ON NIGERIA TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND

The Federal Government of Nigeria has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting African solidarity, regional integration and sustained development on the African continent, through the instrumentality of the Nigeria Technical Cooperation Fund (NTCF).

His Excellency, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, articulated this position at a high-level ministerial consultation between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the African Development Bank, held at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 19 November 2026.

The Honourable Minister described the NTCF as a strategic instrument of Nigeria's foreign policy and development diplomacy, which reflects Nigeria's commitment to playing a leading role in Africa's development, through the sharing of knowledge, skills, technical expertise and development experience.

He highlighted the twin-institutional mechanism which combines a dedicated financing instrument, the NTCF, with an administrative and implementing institution, the DTCA, as a defining feature of Nigeria's technical cooperation framework. He added that the Federal Government of Nigeria sought to establish a sustainable mechanism for extending technical assistance, promoting capacity development and strengthening cooperation among African countries through this integrated approach.

Ambassador Enikanolaiye identified African solidarity, shared responsibility and brotherhood, and a sense of manifest destiny informed by Nigeria's relative size, resource endowment, and the enormous benefits it accrues to Nigerians, as the core elements behind the country's philosophy on external aid policy.

In this context, the Minister highlighted three interrelated pillars underpinning the establishment of the NTCF: leveraging comparative advantage; promoting traditional African solidarity and mutual development; and advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC).

On behalf of the Federal Government, the Honourable Minister proposed key initiatives for strengthening Nigeria's partnership with the AfDB, and addressing institutional, operational and fiduciary issues affecting the effective management of the NTCF, which is co-managed by AfDB and DCTA.

It will be recalled that Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF), administered by AfDB, was established in 1976 and was recently replenished with $500 million USD. The NTCF was established in 2004 with an initial seed capital of $25 million from NTF, and the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA), acting as its supervising authority. Hence, the high-level consultation was held to deliberate on ways to strengthen, replenish and improve the NTCF.

Following deliberations, both parties agreed on the need for sustained engagement in identifying actions required from each side and establishing clear timelines and responsibilities for their implementation. In addition, they underscored the importance of establishing reporting mechanisms to facilitate regular information-sharing on progress achieved, challenges encountered and actions being undertaken.

The meeting ended with the two parties reiterating their shared commitment to enhancing the effectiveness of their partnership and preserving NTCF’s founding principles.

The Honourable Minister of State led the Nigerian delegation to the meeting and was accompanied by the Director-General of DTCA, Col. (Rtd) Garba Moyi Isa, the Ambassador of Nigeria to Côte d’Ivoire, H.E. Ezenwa Nwaobiala, as well as other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The AfDB delegation was led by its Senior Vice-President, Ms. Marie-Laure Akin-Olubade, who was joined by other senior officials of the Bank’s Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships Department (FIRM).

Signed:
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
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