# MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

## PRESS RELEASE

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## NIGERIA REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION, CALLS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ORDER

Nigeria has reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining constructive engagement with the International Law Commission (ILC), emphasising the importance of upholding international law, respecting the sovereign equality of states and strengthening the international legal order.

This position was conveyed through Nigeria's national statement during the Sixth Committee Debate on Agenda Item 78 - Report of the International Law Commission on the Work of its Seventy-Sixth and Seventy-Seventh Sessions – held on 26 October 2026, at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

In the statement, delivered by Ambassador Dunoma Umar Ahmed, PhD., Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria congratulated Mr. Olufemi Elias on his election to the Commission on 5 May 2026, and expressed appreciation to Member States for their support for his candidature.

Aligning itself with the statement delivered by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group, Nigeria also made additional observations in its national capacity on sea-level rise and other decisions and conclusions of the Commission.

On sea-level rise in relation to international law, Nigeria reiterated the importance of preserving legal stability and certainty concerning maritime zones, including the maintenance of established baselines and maritime entitlements in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as well as upholding the presumption of continuity of statehood.

Highlighting its particular interest in the subject as a coastal State with significant populations and economic activities along the Atlantic coast and in the Niger Delta, Nigeria called for enhanced cooperation to support developing States most severely affected by sea-level rise, and provide measures to protect vulnerable populations and communities.

Nigeria also welcomed the inclusion of the topic “Identification and Legal Consequences of Obligations Erga Omnes in International Law” in ILC’s programme of work. It further welcomed the inclusion of “The Right to Regulate in International Investment Law” in the Commission’s long-term programme of work, recognising its relevance to developing countries seeking to attract foreign investment in public interest.

Furthermore, Nigeria acknowledged the establishment of a working group on cooperation with regional legal bodies and the resumption of exchanges with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation which Nigeria is a member of. It encouraged the Commission to extend these engagements to the African Union Commission on International Law, to ensure that African legal traditions, practices and perspectives are adequately reflected in its work.

Nigeria also expressed its support for the restoration of live webcasting of the Commission’s plenary meetings, recognising its importance in enabling smaller delegations to follow the Commission’s deliberations, Nigeria, nevertheless, emphasised that the Commission’s work should give due regard to the sovereign equality of States and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs.

In conclusion, Nigeria reaffirmed its support for the International Law Commission and expressed its commitment to contributing constructively to the Commission’s work, including through timely response to its requests and inquiries.

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

**Saturday, 31 October 2026**