MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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NIGERIA, NETHERLANDS STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON REGIONAL SECURITY, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Nigeria and the Netherlands have reiterated their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation on regional security, economic development, youth empowerment, migration management and international justice.

This position was articulated during a meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dunoma Umar Ahmed, Ph.D., and the Deputy Director-General for Political Affairs at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Guusje Korthals, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, on Monday 16 November 2026.

In his remarks during the engagement, the Permanent Secretary lauded the longstanding cordial partnership between Nigeria and the Netherlands, reiterating Nigeria's commitment to enhancing institutional cooperation and political consultations in advancing shared interests.

The Permanent Secretary welcomed the Netherlands' interest in supporting regional stability efforts in West Africa through development partnerships and investment across diverse sectors in the region. He reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to the stability of West Africa, and stressed the importance of sustained international cooperation in addressing security challenges and their implications for West Africa and Europe.

Ambassador Ahmed emphasised the importance of youth empowerment, noting that young people constituted a significant proportion of Nigeria's population and represented a critical resource for national development. He called for enhanced cooperation in technical and vocational education, skills development and youth-focused economic empowerment programmes, to foster productive livelihoods and address the challenges of unemployment and insecurity.

Discussions further addressed the growing challenge of disinformation and the spread of fake news in the region. The Nigerian side highlighted ongoing efforts by relevant government institutions to promote public awareness, strengthen information management and develop mechanisms to counter the spread of misleading information.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation on migration management. It noted concerns over the recruitment of Nigerians for participation in foreign conflicts, and underscored the importance of sustained public awareness and preventive measures.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of continued dialogue, development partnerships and institutional cooperation in addressing shared challenges, and promoting peace, stability and sustainable development in Nigeria and the wider West African region.

Signed:

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