



EIGHTH NIGERIA-EU MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

23 March 2026

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

1. On 23rd March 2026, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the European Union (EU) held the Eighth Ministerial Dialogue, in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria and H.E. Ms. Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

2. The dialogue offered a timely opportunity to consolidate recent engagements and advance practical cooperation, with both sides reaffirming the strength and depth of the Nigeria–EU strategic partnership — founded on longstanding ties of friendship, mutual respect, shared values, and common interests. At a moment of profound geopolitical uncertainty, Nigeria and the European Union underscored that it is more important than ever to strengthen the partnerships and alliances that have long underpinned the collective pursuit of a more stable, prosperous, and sustainable world, expressing their shared commitment to deepening cooperation across all areas of mutual concern in ways that deliver concrete, meaningful benefits to the citizens of both sides.

3. H.E. Ms Kaja Kallas extended to H.E. the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria an invitation from H.E. the President of the European Council to pay an official visit to Brussels. H.E. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu expressed his willingness to respond positively to this invitation, on a date to be mutually agreed by both sides.

MULTILATERAL AND WEST AFRICAN ISSUES

4. The two sides reiterate their commitment to multilateralism within a rules-based global order, international law, human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Both sides stress the importance of upholding fundamental rights such as gender equality, freedom of expression and assembly, freedom of religion or belief and the prohibition of discrimination against women, girls, and persons with disabilities both globally and at home. They will continue to

jointly work on global issues, such as security, climate change, biodiversity protection and digital governance to coordinate their approach.

5. The European Union supports comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council to make it more effective, inclusive, transparent, democratic, and accountable, to better reflect today's realities by strengthening the voice of underrepresented regions, especially Africa.

6. Both parties reaffirm a strong commitment to international order, based on international law and effective multilateralism, grounded in international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and its Purposes and Principles, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. Both sides are committed to upholding the rules and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those of sovereignty and territorial integrity and political independence. These principles cannot be negotiated or compromised. In this context, we reiterate the obligation of all states to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force. Guided by these rules and principles, both sides reiterate the unwavering support for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in Ukraine, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the Middle East, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Sahel, Somalia, and in other wars and conflicts around the world

7. The two sides reaffirm their commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties (COPs). They agreed to initiate a dialogue on energy and climate issues to advance their respective climate objectives and energy transition strategies to promote energy security, including through diversification and clean technology, boosting growth and prosperity. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation on renewable energy investment – including solar, wind, and clean hydrogen in recognition of Nigeria's significant potential in this area - and to demonstrate commitment to address climate resilience and adaptation, particularly for communities most vulnerable to climate impacts, including in the Lake Chad Basin. Both sides renew their commitment to ambitious climate action reflecting equity and principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of the different national circumstances and to continue dialogue on energy transition pathways.

8. The two sides express their shared willingness to closely cooperate over the political and security situation in West Africa. The EU recognizes the pivotal role Nigeria is playing in safeguarding democracy and providing peace and stability in the region. Nigeria acknowledges the importance and relevance of the EU's support to ECOWAS and its Member States to foster stability, prosperity and sustainable development through regional integration. In this regard, both sides express their willingness to enhance collaboration on threats emanating from the Sahel to manage responses through multilateral forums, as well as strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism, including in the areas of intelligence sharing, capacity building and preventing the financing of terrorism. Both sides express their shared willingness to continue constructive dialogue on the full operationalization of the ECOWAS Standby

Force (ESF) towards fostering peace and security in the region.

PEACE, SECURITY, DEMOCRACY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

9. Nigeria and the EU underline the significance of the first Peace, Security and Defence Dialogue held in Brussels on 18 February 2026 and commit to fully implement the common orientations agreed, including on countering foreign information manipulation and interference. Both sides are aware of the importance of addressing the root causes and numerous drivers of violence in an integrated manner, taking into account the complexity of this phenomenon in Nigeria. In close coordination with its Member States and observing full respect of Nigeria's sovereignty, the EU is ready to step up its support to help Nigeria address the arduous security challenges it faces. In particular, the EU is envisaging the possibility of providing support to Nigeria under the European Peace Facility. The EU is also considering renewing its support, under the EPF, to the Multi-National Joint Task Force around the Lake Chad. The EU will continue supporting Nigeria in efforts for peacebuilding and support to durable solutions for the displaced populations where conditions are favourable, including in the Middle-Belt. Both parties reaffirm their strong commitment to enhanced cooperation on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

10. The two sides expressed their willingness to further strengthen their cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the support and protection of victims of terrorism, prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Both sides stressed in particular the urgent need to ensure the protection of civilians, with special attention to children affected by terrorism, including those forcibly recruited, abducted or arbitrarily detained. Both parties recognized the important role of Nigeria in the regional fight against terrorism, working in synergy with the relevant structures within the region, and the prevention of the spill over effect towards the Gulf of Guinea. Both sides expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security, humanitarian, and socio-economic situation in the Sahel. They discussed the EU Renewed Approach to the Sahel and explored avenues for trilateral cooperation in the region. Both sides aim at strengthening their cooperation in multilateral fora. The EU, as co-chair of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), welcomes Nigeria's pivotal role as co-lead of the Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group. Both sides are determined to work closely together within the framework of the GCTF, as well as in the framework of the 9th review of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in order to ensure a balanced future Global CT Strategy, fully anchored in the respect for international law, including human rights and the rule of law.

11. The two sides welcome the envisaged negotiations of a Working Arrangement between the law enforcement authorities of Nigeria and Europol, and a future enhanced cooperation between Frontex, the EU Drugs Agency (EUDA) and the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC- N). These actions will contribute to a joint, comprehensive and targeted approach to fighting organised crime with particular emphasis on financial crime, cybercrime, drugs, trafficking in human beings, counter

terrorism and violent extremism and the “follow the money approach”, with a view to disrupting the criminal networks and confiscating criminal assets, including of those controlling the networks and operating behind the scenes.

12. Nigeria and the EU will continue their humanitarian partnership, complying with international human rights and humanitarian law. They reaffirm the importance of safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, urgent response to the food and nutrition crises as well as continued investment in resilience building and basic services in areas with vulnerable populations. For 2026 and in line with previous years, the EU is providing an initial envelope of EUR 33 million, focusing on the North-East and the North-West of the country. In the context of the Humanitarian Reset, the EU and Nigeria together with the humanitarian community will continue their efforts towards a transition to nationally led and resourced humanitarian actions.

13. Furthermore, Nigeria and the EU acknowledged the growing threat posed by hybrid tactics, including disinformation campaigns and foreign interference, and agreed to strengthen cooperation in this domain. In addition, both sides are committed to sharing best practices on countering disinformation and to supporting media literacy and resilience within their respective populations. The two sides express readiness to enhance their support for human rights and democratic governance at home in their regions and beyond, and vowed to continue cooperating on the reliability and inclusivity of the electoral process. To this end, both sides acknowledged the upcoming 2027 Nigerian General Elections scheduled to take place in January 2027, and expressed their willingness to support the electoral process.

MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

14. Nigeria and the EU recognized migration as a multidimensional issue requiring comprehensive, balanced, and humane responses. Both parties reaffirmed their readiness to deepen cooperation on migration grounded in mutual respect, shared responsibility, and the protection of human rights. The two sides will continue working closely on migration governance reducing irregular immigration, strengthening cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, the fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants as well as protection and assistance to victims and forcibly displaced people Building on already established bilateral cooperation with a number of Member States, the two sides now seek to further deepen their partnership in the field of migration.

15. Celebrating the initialling of the EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement,] both sides express willingness to expedite its signature and entry into force while guaranteeing the current readmission practices. They aim at an enhanced cooperation on migration, encompassing, apart from return, readmission and sustainable reintegration; the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, legal migration pathways in line with national competences, including the possible launch of a Talent Partnership, in close coordination with EU Member States, as well as addressing the root causes of irregular migration.

16. Consequently, the EU and Nigeria underline the importance of a visa policy

that is transparent, respectful and reflective of the strong bonds of friendship between Nigeria and the EU, and agreed to continue dialogue on consular and visa matters.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

17. The EU is by far Nigeria's largest trading and investment partner with Nigeria benefitting from preferential access to the EU market under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP). In this context, Nigeria and the EU underline the importance of the first Senior Officials' Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Abuja on 30 September 2025. To further strengthen their trade and investment relations, the inaugural meeting of the Dialogue's technical working groups on trade and investment took place on 16 February 2026 to work concretely towards facilitating and diversifying trade as well as attracting new investment. Nigeria and the EU underline the constructive dialogue they held on ensuring the effective implementation of Rules of Origin under the EU's GSP scheme. The EU welcomes legal developments on the draft bill on the Geographical Indications (GIs) and encourages Nigeria to fully adopt it. They also underscore the importance of the EU support for trade facilitation in West Africa and in the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Areas. Both sides look forward to the 10th EU-Nigeria Business Forum, scheduled for 25 June 2026 in Lagos.

PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS UNDER THE EU GLOBAL GATEWAY STRATEGY

18. Both sides reaffirm their determination to fully exploit the opportunities opened by the EU Global Gateway strategy with its 360° approach to foster social, green and digital transition, human development, as well as creation of jobs and opportunities through investments, with youth, women and persons in vulnerable situations as priority targets. They reviewed the current priorities of the Global Gateway strategy in Nigeria: green energy and climate-smart agriculture, digitalisation, transport, health and education. In addition to the Global Gateway, both sides confirm their partnership on migration, security and democratic governance. In 2025, additional 73M€ grants were committed for digital infrastructures and services, the fight against gender-based violence and democracy support and 555M€ loans have been mobilised from EIB for on-lending to SMEs involved in the digital sector, healthcare and agri-food value chains.

19. Both sides acknowledge and welcome the acceleration of the roll-out of the strategy by the EU, its Member States, the European Investment Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("Team Europe") in partnership with the Federal and State governments of Nigeria, as well as private sector and civil society organisations from both sides. As one flagship example, they highlight in particular the recently launched Omi-Eko project of the future electric waterways transportation system in Lagos with a 361 M€ contribution from the EU, the EIB and France under a Team Europe

approach.

20. In the margins of the Dialogue, the following new Global Gateway initiatives were announced : EIB loans to the Bank of Industry: 50M€ to promote healthcare-related manufacturing and 85M€ to finance agriculture value chains with focus on dairy and cocoa, and 108M€ joint EU-EBRD to the Government's project bridge for optic fibre roll out across the country, while other projects are currently under development to support vocational training, sustainable agriculture, safe and sustainable low-carbon energy, among others.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND ACADEMIC COOPERATION

21. Both sides welcome the recent launch of the negotiation of an EU-Nigeria science, technology and innovation agreement, to create a more conducive legal and political framework to further accelerate the successful cooperation in this area. The two parties express their strong willingness to finalise the negotiation of this agreement by June 2026. They also highlight those projects involving Nigerian researcher and innovation under the Horizon Europe programme 2021-27 have doubled compared to the previous programme Horizon 2020.

22. The EU-Nigeria cooperation under the Erasmus+ and Intra-African Mobility Scheme programmes for higher education institutions, students and staff is also progressing well, with Nigeria ranking in particular first in Africa for the number of students benefiting from Erasmus Mundus joint master's scholarships. Beyond mobility, Nigerian and European universities, vocational education and training institutions and youth organisations are collaborating in Erasmus+ capacity building projects. Both sides underline the necessity to step up efforts so that more Nigerian institutions and students benefit from opportunities offered by these programmes, but also in relation to the relevance of the selected projects to the priority sectors of the Global Gateway investments in Nigeria (i.e. safe and sustainable low-carbon energy, circular economy, agriculture innovation and smart farming, AI, digital entrepreneurship).

23. In the area of digital, both parties acknowledged digital transformation as a driver of sustainable development and a pillar of a forward-looking Nigeria-EU partnership. They expressed their commitment to harnessing the opportunities of the digital age for the benefit of their citizens. Both sides concurred on the importance to cooperate on the areas covered under the EU-Nigeria Digital Economy Package, such as digital infrastructure investments provided by trusted equipment suppliers, eGovernance and digital public infrastructure, data exchange, cybersecurity, digital entrepreneurship, space related services and ecosystem-building including by supporting digital skill-building in the country.

FOLLOW-UP

24. The EU delegation expressed gratitude to the Nigerian authorities for the hospitality received and the efficient organisation of the Dialogue. The EU and

Nigeria agree on the principle of continuing to hold a regular annual dialogue at Ministerial level. The ninth Ministerial Dialogue will take place in Brussels in 2027.

For the European Union H.E. Kaja Kallas High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission	For Nigeria H.E. Mr Yusuf Maitama Tuggar Minister of Foreign Affairs Federal Republic of Nigeria
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Done in Abuja, on 23 March 2026