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NEWSLETTER



UN General Assembly President Appreciates President Buhari and Nigerian Government



President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (left) exchanges pleasantries with Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari at the State House, Abuja on 25 November 2019 at the State House Abuja.

The President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, has expressed his appreciation to the President of Nigeria, H.E. Muhammadu Buhari and the Government of Nigeria for the support given, leading to his emergence as UN General Assembly President, and the continued cooperation from Nigeria.

Muhammad-Bande said this on 25 November 2019, at the State House Abuja, when he met with President Buhari, in continuation of his first official visit to Nigeria.

"Everything I have requested for, in terms of personnel and funds, has been delivered. I thank President Buhari very much. I also thank other member states for the support I am getting," he said, "My priorities as the President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly are in line with Agenda 2030 for sustainable development."

President Buhari in his response noted that the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country was urgent and imperative as it could constitute a big problem for the country in future if not addressed.

"Most of the displaced children do not know their parents, or where they come from. We have to look at the issue now, properly rehabilitate them, otherwise, we will have a problem on our hands in the future," President Buhari said.

He urged the President of the UN General Assembly to make Nigeria's challenges glaring to the world, and commended him for his hard work and competence.

HIGHLIGHTS

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Nigeria Immigration Service, UN Launch Border Management Information System P. 5

UN Commends Nigeria on North-East Security and Humanitarian Situations



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Muhammed (Right) and Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Mr Geoffrey Onyeama, in Abuja

The United Nations (UN) has commended the Nigerian government on its fight against insecurity and humanitarian challenges in the North-Eastern region.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed made the commendation on 26 November 2019, during her visit to the Foreign Affairs Minister Geoffrey Onyeama in Abuja.

"We will continue to support the efforts of Nigeria in ensuring peace and security in the sub-region as well as support the country's effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." She said.

The Minister had earlier thanked the United Nations and the Deputy Secretary-General for the support Nigeria has been receiving from the world body.

'Leave No One Behind' Makes Sense Only if Women are Involved - UN



President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, addresses women groups on 25 November 2019, in Abuja during his first official visit to Nigeria.

The President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, has emphasised that the notion of 'Leave no one behind' would make sense only if women were at the centre of every intervention.

Addressing over 1000 women at the International Women Centre, Abuja on 25 November 2019, during his first official visit to Nigeria, he insisted that "Women should be at the centre of development initiatives," and noted that "The differential impact of conflicts on women and children is enormous and needs to be constantly addressed.

Muhammad-Bande who engaged with Mrs Pauline Tallen, the Minister of Women Affairs and her counterpart, Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and other women groups, further said, "if we must leave no one behind as the SDG theme says, then women must be at the centre of what we do."

He, therefore, decried the rate of gender-based violence meted on women, adding that "rape is clearly an issue which we need to address as a taboo."

The UNGA president reiterated the commitment of the 74th General Assembly toward ending all forms of violence against women and children and promote their rights.

The Country Representative of UN Women to Nigeria, Ms Comfort Lamptey, stressed the need for government to reflect on the achievements recorded toward resolving the plights of women and children in Nigeria.

Lamptey emphasised the need to re-strategise and reconnect on ways to address the issue of gender-based violence, with a view to ending the menace from the roots.



A cross-section of dignitaries including President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande; the Minister of Women Affairs, Mrs Pauline Tallen; UN Resident Coordinator a.i, Ms Comfort Lamptey, among others.



President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (Right); and the Minister of Women Affairs, Mrs Pauline Tallen, applaud the women at a forum held on 25 November in Abuja



President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande addresses participants at the African Regional High-Level Conference on Human Rights Situation of older persons in Africa, held at the ECOWAS Parliament Abuja on 25 November 2019.

She said "we must root out all forms of violence against women and children. We must invest in women empowerment and ensure that perpetrators were brought to justice, while victims were supported."

The Women Affairs Minister said that the launch of the Sexual Offenders Register by NAPTIP and partners in Abuja would provide data on those convicted for sexual offences and serve as a deterrent to others.

UN, Nigerian Artistes Release Song for Children's Rights

Song produced by Cobhams Asuquo calls for every Nigerian child's rights to be respected and protected



Nigerian musician, producer and songwriter, Cobhams Asuquo with students during the launch of the For Every child song at Government Day Secondary School Garki, Abuja. UNICEF Nigeria/2019

UNICEF Nigeria, together with Nigerian musician, producer and songwriter, Cobhams Asuquo, and several top Nigerian artists released a song on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 titled "For Every Child," calling for every Nigerian child's rights to be respected.

The song release came on the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), celebrated worldwide. The song features children singing with Niniola, TuBaba, Chidinma, Timi Dakolo, Umar M. Sheriff and Cobhams Asuquo.

"With this song, we are urging all people to call for every right for every child. Every Nigerian child deserves a fair chance to safe and healthy future and to fulfil their dreams," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Nigeria Representative.

The song was launched at the Government Day Secondary School Garki, in Abuja, where Mr Hawkins addressed students at the school, highlighting the need for priority to be given to the education of the child.

"When a child is educated, they will be given the ability to contribute their quota to the community, when a child is educated they can avoid situations that can endanger them as regards to their health and their future as a whole."

"Every child especially a Nigerian child is born with a talent, is born with a future and it is for us to create a platform so that they can perform, inspire and be a part of the future of this country," he said.

Cobhams Asuquo, who produced the song, was also at the event and he encouraged children to aim for greatness.

"You are all that is right with Nigeria because you all have the chance to rewrite all the wrongs the previous generations have committed. I envy you all because you have the chance. Greatness is achievable for all Nigerian child; you have a chance to make it better," he said.

The "For every Child" music video can be viewed on the UNICEF Nigeria Youtube Channel and partner media platforms nationwide.

Using Technology to Combat Crime and Promote the Rule of Law

Technology and globalization enable criminals to work across regions; increasing their reach, their crimes and their profits. Just as the Internet has transformed every aspect of our lives, it has also become a cornerstone of criminality." In a 2017 op-ed, UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov warned how, in an increasing high-tech world, science, technology and innovation could be manipulated for criminal purposes.

Criminals manipulate new technologies to recruit and exploit victims of human trafficking or spread extremist ideologies. The internet can also serve as an illicit market for drugs, firearms or trafficked wildlife products and a 2018 study estimated that cybercrime cost approximately 600 billion US dollars. In its resolution to counter the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, the UN General Assembly shared its concern regarding "the increase in the rate and diversity of crimes committed in the digital world and their impact on the stability of critical infrastructure of States and enterprises and on the well-being of individuals."

Yet, to use the words of Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet for the UN Secretary-General, "the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda cannot be through business as usual" as technology and innovation have an important role to play reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. In this spirit, UNODC has been engaging with young Nigerian coders to come up with technological ways to combat organized crime. The winners of our March 2019 Hackathon for Justice attended the World Bank's Law, Justice and Development Week to discuss how technology can be used to promote the rule of law.

Following the success of the first Hackathon in Lagos, Facebook Developers Circle and UNODC supported Girls Voices Initiative (GVI) in organizing a Girls Hackathon for Justice during which 45 secondary school girls came up with innovative proposals on



Girls Hackathon for Justice in session during which 45 secondary school girls came up with innovative proposals on child trafficking, held in Lagos

child trafficking, educating children about their rights, gender-based violence (GBV) and other rights violation issues.

This event just marked a beginning for the girls. While GVI will provide a free Python holiday course for the top five teams, Facebook Developers Circle offered to provide mentoring and technical support to the ideas of the winning team and the first and second runners-up. Moreover, the Office for ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIIE), a subsidiary of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) offered to engage the girls in the hackathon event for startups in Abuja, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Young Professionals (IEEEYP) offered to mentor the last two teams.

The Food Explorers of Nigeria

Last October, as governments and international agencies discussed the importance of healthy diets in achieving a world without hunger, UN World Food Programme (WFP) met four food explorers to discuss their love for Nigerian cuisine, and how to use local foods for better diets. The Chefs tell their stories.

Ozoz Sokoh

"I am a Food Explorer. I enjoy researching about food. Nigeria has a wide variety of foods, vegetables and ingredients. I believe that everyone should know all the foods and vegetables in Nigeria — and how to use them to create healthy diets. I explore the benefits of the rich ingredients across various Nigerian cultures." Sokoh is a geologist. But last year, he quit his job in a multinational oil corporation to pursue his passion in food and healthy diets. "I learnt how to cook from my father. He cooked with passion. I infuse locally-grown ingredients in my dishes — like my yam and pumpkin pottage with fresh garden eggs, dry fish, sweet corn, ube (pear) and African yam beans. My goal is to educate Nigerians about the large diversity of food in the country and raise consciousness about healthy foods."



Chef Stone

"I became passionate about food when I had to survive as a student in the UK for nine years. The only way to make money without spending money on food was to wait tables. As a waiter, you were guaranteed at least one course meal. In the process of waiting tables, I met a chef whose lifestyle I admired. I trained under him and then I decided to move back to Nigeria. When I moved back to Nigeria, I realized that Nigerian chefs were undervalued and under-paid. I wanted to change that. So, I started my culinary school. The first of its kind in Nigeria. My goal is to train the best Nigerian chefs who can prepare any type of dish and are not limited to preparing Nigerian meals. But also preparing foods that other nationals can eat and enjoy."



Iquo Ukoh

"I am a nutrition dietitian by training. I retired four years ago as a director from a large multinational food and beverages company. But I am still very passionate about food and healthy eating. My work exposed me to different foods across Nigeria. I often interacted with female food vendors to understand about food and to teach them about healthy food. I want to tour Nigeria to learn more about Nigerian foods because I know how blessed Nigeria is. I strive to raise the consciousness of Nigerians, especially working moms, about how to cook good, nutritious, inexpensive meals for their families. I have a vegetable garden and I encourage all Nigerian working women to do the same."

Chef Fregz

"I am a Private Chef, passionate about food and life. My aunt influenced me to become a chef. The passion she showed while cooking made me even more passionate about food and cooking — and I decided to be a chef. My mum didn't want me to be a chef, because cooking in Nigeria is usually reserved for women. Although I obtained a degree in Human Resources, cooking was my calling. In my cooking, I fuse the traditions of the different regions to produce a rich blend of Nigerian dishes. Nigeria has a large variety of foods and vegetables which can be blended creatively to provide healthy meals. An example of my blend of traditional and modern tastes is my 'deconstructed egusi soup', prepared with ugba, palm oil, blended dried fish and grilled chicken, served with tuwo shinkafa."



Nigeria Immigration Service, UN Launch Border Management Information System



An Immigration Officer demonstrates the new Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) to the Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola (Middle) and the Ambassador of Denmark to Nigeria, Mr Jesper Kamp (Right)

Nigeria, like many countries, recognizes the economic, social and political benefits of international mobility. This week (12/11) the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) officially opened its new Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja.

The Abuja Airport is the second busiest airport in Nigeria, serving approximately five million passengers annually. The MIDAS system, developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), enables immigration and border officials to process travellers more rapidly and professionally, making their border-crossing experience safer and more humane.

“MIDAS helps the Government of Nigeria to better understand mobility patterns through its statistical information and also ensure that those crossing Nigerian borders do not pose threats to national and international security,” explained Muhammad Babandede, NIS Comptroller General during the commissioning event at the airport.

MIDAS also enables States to more effectively monitor those entering and exiting their territory by land, air and sea while providing a sound statistical basis for migration policy-related planning.

To date, the project represents the largest deployment of MIDAS at any airport globally and it will be implemented in four other Nigerian airports welcoming travellers: in Lagos, Enugu, Kano and Port Harcourt. This marks a breakthrough for Nigeria which hopes to establish one of the world’s largest MIDAS data networks.

“MIDAS improves the effectiveness and efficiency of Nigeria’s air border management by strengthening NIS’ ability to manage and facilitate cross border movements,” added Nicolai Ruge, Ambassador-at-large for Migration of the Government of Denmark.

The project Enhancing Air Border Data Systems in Nigeria is supported by the Government of Denmark. MIDAS in Nigeria has been also supported by other donors including the Governments of Germany, Japan, Norway and Switzerland as well as the European Union.

This nationwide system will enable real-time data synchronization between the airports and the NIS Headquarters in Nigeria’s capital to effectively monitor those entering and exiting through the country’s air borders. The system can also send automatic queries to INTERPOL databases and relevant watchlists in order to detect travel documents and individuals potentially linked to transnational organized crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

“This is just the beginning. With support of the international community, we will continue investing in strengthening legal, technical and operational capacities of Nigerian authorities in the area of border management in line with international standards and good practices,” said Ivanka Spadina, IOM Senior Programme Manager.

A set of standard training packages is also being delivered for the country’s immigration officers and government IT focal points as part of the MIDAS roll-out. IOM also promotes a responsible use of biometrics, in full respect of privacy and personal data protection laws and international standards.

Developed and globally managed by IOM, MIDAS is a fully customizable Border Management Information System (BMIS) for States seeking a non-commercial, cost-effective and comprehensive solution.

MIDAS has been designed to be compliant with international standards (ICAO and ISO) and is currently operational in over 20 countries globally.

Climate Change Could Mean More Terrorism in the Future



As the world warms and the climate changes researchers are increasingly concerned that, in addition to the many environmental, meteorological, and economic challenges this will bring, it will also mean an increase in political violence and instability around the world, and perhaps even an increase in terrorism.

The impact of climate change and environmental collapse can already be seen in a number of conflict zones around the globe. A 2010 report prepared by the US Joint Forces Command warned of the dangers that can result when natural disasters “collide” with existing structural challenges like urban sprawl and civil unrest.

The relationship between resource competition and civil conflict is well-established, and, in regions like the Lake Chad Basin, climate change has clearly exacerbated competition over increasingly scarce resources. In the language of security studies, climate change is a potential “threat multiplier”.

As the waters of Lake Chad recede, fish stocks are reduced, cultivatable land disappears, and other economic opportunities are also diminished. The African Union has noted that the loss of traditional livelihoods has encouraged some individuals to turn to explore membership of armed groups as a potential alternate source of income.

Increased insurgent activity can also feed into a negative spiral of increasing environmental collapse as agricultural infrastructure is destroyed, environmental management expertise is lost, and the natural environment is further degraded. Northern Nigeria is currently losing an estimated 1,350 square miles – roughly the equivalent of Lagos State - to desertification every year.

As early as 2007, the United Nations Security Council started debating the potential impact that climate change could have on global security, and in September 2009 the Secretary-General presented the first major UN report on Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications to the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General’s report highlighted five main threats arising from climate change: the vulnerability of food supplies and public health; the reversal of development gains; migration and internal unrest; statelessness and the loss of habitable territory; and, finally, international conflict over scarce resources.

The report’s predictions have proved prophetic. In recent years, environmental factors have been mentioned more and more frequently in the Security Council deliberations, especially in relation to Africa, where approximately 250 million people in Africa are projected to suffer from water and food insecurity during the 21st century as a consequence of climate change.

In March 2017 Security Council Resolution 2349, which addressed the predations of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin,

specifically recognized “the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of the Region, including through water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity.”

Regional concerns have only continued to grow since. In February 2018 the Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Countries issued the Abuja Declaration to raise global awareness of the dramatic shrinkage of Lake Chad and the expected impact that this will have on sustainable livelihoods, security, and development efforts in the region.

Addressing the conference, President Buhari soberly noted: “The ‘oasis in the desert’ is just a desert now. Farmers and herdsmen struggle over the little water left; Herdsmen migrate in search of greener pastures resulting in conflicts; Our youths are joining terrorist groups because of lack of jobs and difficult economic conditions.”

A further potential “threat multiplier” is the rise in global temperature itself. The relationship between heat and aggression is well established in psychological research. As the temperature rises so do people’s tempers, and violent crime increases. A recent academic study drawing on data from 159 countries over a forty-five year period actually found a positive correlation between higher temperatures and terrorism.

But there is cause for hope. The Secretary-General’s 2009 report also identified “threat minimizers” that could offset the potential for global unrest. These include climate mitigation and adaptation, economic development, democratic governance, strong local and national institutions, international cooperation, and preventive diplomacy and mediation.

In August 2018 Lake Chad Basin Commission and African Union Commission presented its Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region, which has been adopted by the Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Countries.

The Government of Nigeria is doing its part too, both with its Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and by implementing the Buhari Plan for Rebuilding the North East, which includes climate change mitigation, peace-building, and economic development initiatives.

The United Nations is working to support of Government’s strategies to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism in a manner that aligns with our efforts to tackle climate change and to pre-empt and mitigate its effects.

There are many excellent reasons why we should all be doing more to combat climate change and making the world a safer and more secure place is one of them.

UN Marks International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists



Dignitaries at the observance of the 2019 International Day to End Impunity for crimes against Journalists (IDEI) in Nigeria

The celebration of the 2019 International Day to End Impunity for crimes against Journalists (IDEI) in Nigeria was packed with several side events. The IDEI intervention is to condemn all attacks and violence on journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability, bring to justice perpetrators of crimes against journalists and media workers and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies.

This year's event, tagged *Keeping Safe* gave a spotlight on how journalists and media professionals approach complicated and diverse issue such as Migration. The ethical and professional challenges journalists face as they report on the flow of refugees and migrants from Africa to Europe and its impacts.

At the event, 6 (six) journalists from different parts of the country, who have shown competencies on investigative journalism and content development on migration were awarded with

different gift items. A candle light procession was observed for journalists who have lost their lives during the cause of the work. The climax of the event was the stage drama, *The Journey* that x-rayed the risks and consequences of irregular migration.

At the end of the event that attracted about 200 participants, the communique advised the journalists to prioritize the codes of ethics and related human rights while reporting migration and human trafficking victims.

Access to Information is a key to freedom! UNESCO places emphasis on the human face of migration. It addresses the implications of the movement of people within its fields of competence, firmly embedding its interventions in a human rights framework.

With the support of Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, UNESCO is supporting Member States to empower young people in Africa through media and communication to address the challenges of irregular migration.

UN Launches New Nigeria Handbook on Counter-Terrorism Investigations

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), working in conjunction with the European Union and the Nigeria Police Force, has launched a new Handbook on Counter-Terrorism Investigations developed exclusively for Nigerian investigators working in the counterterrorism arena.

Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province have embraced a wide range of indiscriminate terrorist tactics, including car bombings, suicide vest attacks, kidnappings, stand-off attacks, and close quarter assaults. Targets have included military bases, busy markets and shopping centers, government offices, traffic stops, schools, places of worship, and funerals. Almost 75% of these attacks have impacted civilians. More than 37,000 people have been killed.

Each terrorist incident poses unique and significant challenges to the law enforcement and security professionals charged both with finding the individuals responsible, along with those who supported and directed them, and also with the weighty responsibility of trying to prevent the next attack. The new Nigeria Handbook on Counter-Terrorism Investigations is designed to help Nigerian investigators to develop the skills and approaches necessary to ensure that evidence left behind at crime scenes is recovered and analyzed, that investigative leads are effectively identified and pursued, and that potential intelligence opportunities are leveraged and exploited.

In his Foreword to the Handbook, Inspector General of Police Muhammed A. Adamu welcomed the launch of Handbook and thanked UNODC for its contribution to Nigeria's struggle against terrorism: "The multi-faceted challenges posed by 21st century

terrorist organizations require the adoption of innovative new approaches both on the frontline and in cyberspace. As terrorism evolves, so must we. This Handbook is a demonstration of continuous and sustained UNODC support towards strengthening the Nigeria Police Force."

Mr. Oliver Stolpe, UNODC Country Representative to Nigeria, echoed the IG's comments: "By combining sound foundational principles with the latest advances in forensic science and investigative best practice, we hope that this Handbook will become an indispensable aid for police trainers working across the country, and help a new generation of Nigerian counterterrorism investigators to hold offenders to account and deliver justice to their victims."

The production of the Handbook on Counter-Terrorism Investigations was fully funded by the European Union as part of the longstanding EU-Nigeria-UNODC-CTED Partnership Project to support Nigeria to strengthen criminal justice measures for preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Ambassador Ketil Karlsen, Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria, emphasized the important role of that law enforcement can play in combatting terrorism: "The EU is supporting the fight against terrorism and violent extremism in Nigeria in a comprehensive and multifaceted way. A key focus is on backing Nigerian-led initiatives that strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism. The Nigerian Handbook on Counter-Terrorism Investigations, developed with top international expertise from UNODC, will no doubt help conducting more coherent and valid investigations."

News Titbits

UN, EU Move to Build Support for Countries Fighting Terrorism in Western and Central Africa



L-R: Resident Coordinator a.i., Ms Comfort Lamptey; Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Central Africa/Head of UNOCA, François Louncény Fall; Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel/ Head of UNOWAS, Mohamed Ibn Chambas; and the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel, Angel Losada

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel - Unowas, SRSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas; Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, SRSR François Louncény Fall, and the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel, Angel Losada, have moved to build partnership and support for countries fighting insurgency and terrorism in the West Africa, the Sahel and the Central Africa. SRSR Chambas said this while meeting with the UN Country Team in Abuja on 20 November. He emphasised the need for partnership for peace between various states regionally and globally and with non-state actors such as civil society and customary institutions. Resident Coordinator, a.i. Ms Comfort Lamptey, received the SRSRs and their team members.

UN Marks World Toilet Day



Knowledge Management Assistant, Ms Bolanle Olumekor of UN Information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria (Left) addresses the students

As the people around the world observed the World Toilet Day, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria, has organised a school outreach to disseminate key messages on the 2019 World Toilet Day. The outreach, held at the Osborne Schools' Complex, was attended by about 4,000 students from 10 schools. It was aimed at actualising SDG Goal 6, to end the practice of open defecation.

Presenting the key messages to the students, the Knowledge Management Assistant, UNIC, Nigeria, Mrs Bolanle Olumekor called for an end to the practice of open defecation, which she described as extremely harmful to public health.

'This year, we want to show that a toilet is not just a toilet; it's a lifesaver, dignity-protector and opportunity-maker.' She said and added that sanitation is not only a question of basic dignity and women safety, but also a fundamental human right. Mrs Olumekor who stressed that the health benefits of sanitation to the society could only be fully realised when everyone embraces behavioural change.

UN Cooperation Framework would help Africa take Advantage of Blue Economy to Achieve Agenda 2030



Regional Director, United Nations Development Coordination Office Mr Munyaradzi Chenje, addresses the participants in Lagos

Mainstreaming the Maritime Sector into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) will help position Africa to take advantage of the Blue Economy and the actualisation of Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To this end, United Nations Agencies: International Maritime Organisation, International Maritime Organization - IMO, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in conjunction with Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agencies, (NIMASA) organised a two-day Regional Workshop on a Process to Mainstream the Maritime Sector through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, on 20 November 2019 in Lagos.

The Regional Director, United Nations Development Coordination Office for Africa, Mr Munyaradzi Chenje submitted that the objective of the UN reform is to promote a more integrated system and focus on delivery with clearer accountability to national stakeholders.

Presenting the United Nations in Nigeria "Experience in the Development and Implementation of the Cooperation Framework", the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon said Common Country Analysis approach was applied and 'aligned to Nigeria's Vision 2030 and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan ERGP (2017 -2020).'

He told the gathering that Nigeria has demonstrated strong political will and commitment to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

Mr Kallon stressed that achieving the SDGs required transformative change through smarter partnerships, among governments, civil society, the private sector, the development partners and other stakeholders.



United Nations Nigeria Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon, addresses the audience at the workshop held in Lagos.

PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction:

1. *At the Presidential Villa Abuja, President Muhammadu Buhari (4th from left) received in audience the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (3rd from left) and his team including the UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Ms Comfort Lamptey (2nd from right). On 25 November.*
2. *Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Geoffrey Onyeama welcomes the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, to the Foreign Affairs Ministry Abuja, on 22 November .*
3. *UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Muhammed (foreground) addresses participants at a dialogue with members of the diplomatic community in Nigeria held on 25 November in Abuja . At the background is Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr Mohamed Yahya*
4. *L-R: Acting Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN, H.E. Ambassador Samson Iteboje; President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, and the UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Ms Comfort Lamptey, who received them on arrival at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport Abuja on 21 November*



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