



UNITED NATIONS  
NIGERIA



# NEWSLETTER

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UN75  
2020 AND BEYOND

SHAPING  
OUR  
FUTURE  
TOGETHER

## Governor Sanwo-Olu Launches HeForShe Campaign in Lagos



UN Women Deputy Representative, Mr. Lansana Woneh, decorating Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu as the Chief Gender Champion for the state during the event

The United Nations HeForShe Global Solidarity Campaign for Gender Equality has been officially launched in Lagos. On 28th January 2020, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu led the campaign launch at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa Ikeja, Lagos. Sanwo-Olu described the campaign as a call to men to become advocates for gender equality. Acknowledging the need for gender equality and the empowerment of women, he stated, "Women are endowed with incredible potentials that the society needs to harness to achieve optimum level of development. As the Chief Executive of Lagos State, and one who believes in the critical role of women in advancing the socio-economic development of our state, I am proud to accept the responsibility to lead this campaign as an ambassador for the cause of women in Lagos state."

The HeForShe Initiative was generated as a global effort to engage men and boys in the dismantling of social and cultural barriers which prevent women and girls from achieving their potential. HeForShe also provides a platform for men and boys to become advocates for women and girls, and to tell their stories to the global community about the actions they are taking to put an end to inequality against women and girls.

In Nigeria, the campaign was launched at the national level on 23rd May 2017, and officiated by the Acting President, His Excellency, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, at the International Conference Center, Abuja. This was facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with support from UN Women. The national launch paved the way for the state launches in Plateau, Gombe, Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and now, Lagos.

Launched under the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria, the HeForShe campaign recognised Gov. Sanwo-Olu as the number one gender champion in Lagos state. Other gender champions decorated at the event included the Lagos State Deputy Governor, Obafemi Hamzat; Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rtd. Hon. Mudashiru A. Obasa, Lagos State Head of Service,...*Continue on page 2.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

UN Reaffirms Commitment To Nigeria's Development P. 3

Ministry of Labour Launches Nigeria's Future of Work Report P. 6

Borno, Lagos Celebrate International Day of Education 2020 P. 8

**UN Nigeria Bans Single-use Plastics in UN House Abuja**



Rising from its one-day mini-retreat in Abuja on 31 January 2020, the United Nations Nigeria Country Team has banned the use of single-use plastics in the UN House premises in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Announcing the decision at the end of the retreat, was the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the UN system in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon.

He noted that single-use plastics were not biodegradable and therefore constituted a serious environmental hazard. "We are committed to improving education and awareness raising on climate change mitigation and impact reduction as stated in SDG 13, Target 13.3.

Mr Kallon encouraged everyone to stop using plastic products which are designed just to be thrown away, such as plastic bottles.

## Governor Sanwo-Olu Launches HeForShe Campaign...Continued from page 1



L-R: Special Adviser to the Governor on Works and Infrastructure, Mrs. Aramide Adeyeye; her counterpart of Office of the Civic Engagement, Princess Aderemi Adebowale; Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Mrs. Bolaji Dada; Commissioner for Finance, Dr. Rabiu Olowo during the launch of the United Nations He-For-She Campaign in Lagos at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja, on 28 January.



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu signing his commitment to take action against gender inequality and violence against women.

...Hakeem Muri Okunola, Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Moyosore Onigbanjo, Singer and Entertainer, Patoranking; Managing Director of Polaris Bank, Tokunbo Abiru; Oba of Elegushi, Saheed Elegushi.

UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Comfort Lamptey, who was represented at the launch by the Deputy Representative, Mr. Lansana Wonneh, commended the governor for taking the historic step to launch the campaign in Lagos. She also enjoined men and boys to take action by committing to the movement through the online sign-up, highlighting the participation and commitment of men as critical to achieving gender equality.

## UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Launches UN 75th Anniversary Dialogues

January 1, 2020 saw the launch of the UN75 initiative - the largest, most inclusive conversation on the role of global cooperation in building a better future for all. The initiative will see the UN spark dialogues throughout 2020 in diverse settings across the world.

The UN75 dialogues together with a 'One-minute Survey' that anyone can take, opinion polling in 50 countries and artificial intelligence sentiment analysis of traditional and social media in 70 countries, would generate compelling data to inform national and international policies and debate.

In calling for participation, the Secretary-General said: "No country, no community, is able to solve the complex problems of our world alone. We need to come together, not only to talk, but to listen. It is absolutely essential that you all join the conversation. We need your opinion, your strategies and your ideas for us to be able to deliver better for the people of the world that we must serve."

Intended to engage constituencies across borders, sectors and generations, the UN75 team is collaborating with a wide multi-sector network, including the UN Resident Coordinators, for a diverse and global reach, and for dialogues to be convened in every country of the world.

Those who want to be a part of the conversation - physically or online - can see how to join through the website: <https://un75.online/>



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

## UN Nigeria Country Team Reaffirms Commitment To Nigeria's Development Aspirations



*Heads of UN Agencies in Nigeria and some technical staff in the Resident Coordinator's Office at the end of the UN Country Team retreat in Abuja on 31 January.*

The United Nations Nigeria Country Team, on Thursday 30 January 2020 in Abuja, ended its one-day mini-retreat with a reaffirmation of its commitment to supporting the development aspirations of the government and people of Nigeria.

The retreat which involved all the UN Agencies in Nigeria examined how best the UN system in Nigeria could rise up to the occasion and support the Federal Government of Nigeria to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

"This is the fifth year of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development; second year into UN Nigeria Humanitarian Strategy; second year into the implementation of UN Reform and the last year of Nigeria's Vision 2020." "Therefore," said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon, "We must redouble efforts towards mobilising adequate and well directed funding; Enhancing national implementation; Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions; and Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation."

The Country Team further emphasized the importance of leaving no one behind in this 'Decade of Action' to accelerate the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets.

The retreat was organised around three key thematic areas: Configuration of the UN system in Nigeria; Efficiency and efficacy of the UN system in Nigeria; and the Focus and vision going forward.



*UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon addresses the Heads of Agencies at the mini-retreat held on 31 January 2020 in Abuja.*

## Damilola Ogunbiyi Takes Top UN Energy Job, Assumes Duties

The former Managing Director/CEO of Nigeria's Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Damilola Ogunbiyi has started her appointment at the United Nations as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN Energy, and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All.

In a statement to mark her assumption at the world body organisation, Ogunbiyi said she is passionate about her responsibilities as she helps global citizens embrace sustainable energy in line with UN's Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 7.

"As we begin this new decade, we are far from achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 7, that

promises sustainable energy for all. Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today.



*Ms Damilola Ogunbiyi*

# UN Supports Nigeria in Launching Report on the Second Survey on Corruption



R-L: Mr. Oliver Stolpe, Representative, UNODC Country Office for Nigeria; Mr. John Brandolino, Director, Division of Treaty Affairs, UNODC HQ; Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator (5th from the left); Mr. Ibrahim Magu, Acting Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission – EFCC (4th from the left) and other dignitaries.

The National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and with the support of the United Kingdom launched the report on the Second Survey on Corruption in Nigeria on 6 December in Abuja.

The survey assesses the likelihood of citizens being approached for the payment of bribes as well as the frequency of such requests and actual payments. It provides insights into citizens' attitudes towards corruption, their readiness to refuse requests for bribes and to report corruption incidents. It also provides data on bribery and nepotism in public sector recruitment as well as the phenomenon of vote buying.

The survey found that out of all Nigerian citizens who had at least one contact with a public official in the 12 months prior to the 2019 survey, 30 per cent paid a bribe to, or were asked to pay a bribe by, a public official. This means that, although still relatively high, the prevalence of bribery in Nigeria has undergone a statistically significant decrease since 2016, when it stood at 32.3 per cent.

Although a smaller percentage of Nigerians that had contact with public officials paid bribes, or were asked to pay bribes, in 2019 than in 2016, those who did pay bribes continued to do so quite frequently: in 2019, Nigerian bribe-payers paid an average of six bribes in the 12 months prior to the survey, or one bribe every two months, which is virtually the same as the average of 5.8 bribes paid per bribe-payer in 2016. As a result, it is estimated that some 117 million bribes are paid in Nigeria on a yearly basis.

The 2019 survey shows a notable increase since 2016, from 52 to 63 per cent, in the overall proportion of Nigerians who had at least one contact with a public official in the 12 months prior to the survey. This can be seen as a positive sign for the provision of public services in Nigeria.

Healthcare professionals, namely doctors, nurses and midwives, and public utility officials are the two types of public officials with whom the largest share (31 per cent each) of Nigerians had at least one contact in the 12 months prior to the 2019 survey. Police officers came a close third, with 30 per cent.

Most encouragingly, the prevalence of bribery in relation to several types of public officials has decreased significantly since

2016. The greatest change is in relation to police officers, meaning that the share of people who paid a bribe to a police officer out of all those who had at least one contact with a police officer in the 12 months prior to the 2019 survey decreased from 46 to 33 per cent.

The prevalence of bribery in relation to prosecutors decreased from 33 to 23 per cent, judges/magistrates from 31 to 20 per cent, customs and immigration officers from 31 to 17 per cent and embassy/consulate officers from 16 to 8 per cent.

Statistician General Yemi Kale of the National Bureau of Statistic remarked that this second comprehensive survey on corruption in Nigeria provides the Government and the people of Nigeria an opportunity to assess not only the achievements that have been recorded in the process of tackling corruption, but also the framework for evaluating the impact of related progress.

Oliver Stolpe, UNODC Country Representative observed that while the prevalence of administrative, mostly low-value, bribery has decreased, the survey suggests that the Government's anti-corruption agenda is yet to affect this type of bribe seeking behaviour more fundamentally.

Consequently, greater efforts might be needed to eradicate small scale corruption which continues to have a profound effect on the lives of Nigerians. He further expressed his hope that the survey will make an important contribution in the fight against corruption in terms of further enhancing its effectiveness and benefits for the people of Nigeria.

Representing H.E. Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo, was Mr. Dayo Apata Solicitor General of the Federation, who stressed that to fight corruption more effectively, there is a need to improve understanding of its different manifestations as well as to develop evidence based anti-corruption policies and measures. Therefore, surveys like this one and other methodologies become imperative.



## UN Nigeria Kick-Starts UN75 Activities, Holds Abuja Int’l Model United Nations Conference

The United Nations system in Nigeria, on 28 January 2020, commenced the year-long activities of the United Nations 75th anniversary with the hosting of Abuja International Model United Nations (AIMUN) conference organised by University of Abuja, UN Information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In his message to the conference, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, disclosed that the delegates to the conference were the first generation to grow up in the shadow of climate change and the last who could prevent its worst consequences. “The world needs your strong engagement to increase ambition, to cut emissions and to hold leaders to account.” He continued, “The United Nations is the platform for action on climate change, on growing inequality, on harnessing new technologies for the good of all, and on all global issues that cannot be addressed by any one country alone.”

Addressing the delegates, the Director of UNIC, Mr Ronald Kayanja, noted, "The world has changed a lot in the past 75 years, and indeed the system of international cooperation has also been evolving. We face new challenges in the world today, different from the immediate concerns of those who established the UN in 1945, therefore, the UN Secretary-General is calling for a global conversation."

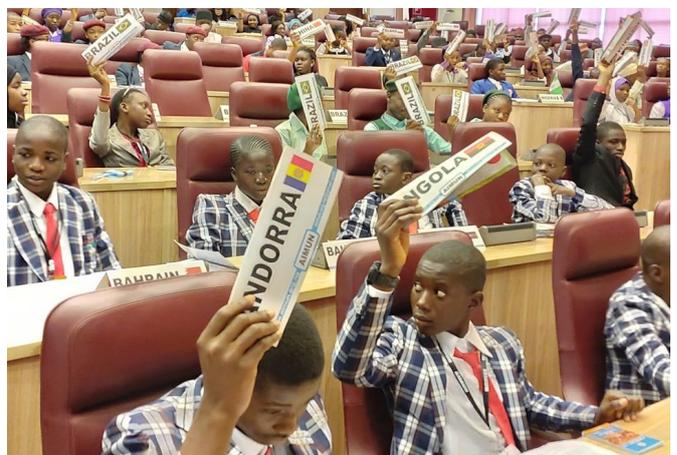
The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Geoffrey Onyeama, represented by the Director of International Organisation Department in the Ministry, Mr Oluremi Oliyide, underscored the importance of multilateralism to addressing most of the global challenges. The Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, called on everyone to seize the opportunity provided by the UN 75th anniversary to "change the way we do business and make the UN more inclusive, transparent, accountable and effective."

Ambassadors of India, Jamaica, Sweden, Switzerland, Sri Lanka and The Gambia, all addressed the delegates on the conference theme: “The future we want, the United Nations we need: Re-affirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”.

Over 400 delegates attended the conference held at the



Director of UN Information Centre (UNIC) Mr Ronald Kayanja, addresses the delegates at the conference



A cross-section of delegates at the conference

Rotunda auditorium of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The conference ended on 31 January.

## Holocaust Remembrance: Let’s Build Peace and Justice Around the World - Guterres



National Information Officer of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Nigeria, Oluseyi Soremekun, delivers the message of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the Holocaust Remembrance on 27 January.

“Today and every day, we commemorate the victims of the Holocaust by pursuing truth, remembrance and education, and by building peace and justice around the world”, said the message of the UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres delivered by the National Information Officer of the UN Information Centre

(UNIC) in Nigeria, Oluseyi Soremekun at the 75th anniversary of the International Day of the Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

The commemorative event was held in collaboration with Lagos Education District II with an educational briefing of 500 students across 6 schools.

The Tutor General /Permanent Secretary (TG/PS) of Education District II Mrs Anike Adekanye in her remarks advised students to be tolerant, show love to one another and shun all forms of tribalism and hate speech, be it ethnic, religion or political.

The educational briefing with the students was to spur action against hatred and discrimination. To promote tolerance and encourage them to stand up against hatred and anti-Semitism, and to always protect people, stand up to tyranny, promote human rights and dignity for all.

There was the screening of the Film “Accountant of Auschwitz ” and a poster exhibition titled, “Some Were Neighbours” curated by Soremekun.

As part of the commemoration, #WeRemember campaign was launched and there was a minute silence for all the men, women and children that perished during the Holocaust.

It was interactive with the students stating lessons learnt and why they will take action to promote human rights.

# Ministry of Labour and Employment Launches Nigeria's Future of Work Report

The Government of Nigeria with support of the ILO launched the report of the national dialogue on the Future of Work and recommended key areas of implementation that will be beneficial to Nigeria.



Dignitaries present to the public, the Nigeria's Future of Work Report.

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment as part of its ILO Centenary Commemorative events, launched Nigerian's Future of Work Report. With support from International Labour Organization Country Office Abuja, the Ministry had organised a National Dialogue on the Future of Work (FoW) that was aimed at coming up with strategies for minimising the negative effects of transformation processes as well as maximising the benefits therein. The report was developed to present activities and outcomes from the National Dialogue.

The ILO Country Director for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr. Dennis Zulu, represented in his goodwill message by Mr. Dino Corell, highlighted that globalisation, global value chains, technical innovation and climate change are indeed key issues affecting the world of work today as stated in the report, and that these changes can be beneficial if harnessed properly. Mr. Zulu identified the need for a national plan of action on the future of work to ensure that people can benefit from a changing world of work and expressed ILO's commitment to providing the necessary support.

In his address, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Mr. William Nwankwo Alo, represented by the Director of Human Resources, Mr. Abdulrahim Ajibola Ibrahim, expressed his delight that the purpose of the National Dialogue has been achieved.

'There is no doubt that the outcome of the dialogue will dovetail into more job creation, enterprise development, sustained economic growth and national development' he said. Mr. Alo commended the ILO and other stakeholders for their participa-

tion in the dialogue and tireless commitment to preparing for the future of work.

The keynote address of the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Chris Ngige, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. William Nwankwo Alo, applauded the ILO for its swift response to challenges affecting the future of work.

Dr. Ngige reiterated that the present administration through its most ambitious program 'Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP)' is working endlessly to expand national economic base and reinvigorate critical sectors of the economy to create more employment opportunities for Nigerians.

He assured the audience that the Government was placing more priority on the largely untapped potentials of the informal sector. He therefore called on all partners to support the Nigerian Government to implement the recommendations from the dialogue so that the set goals are achieved.



**DECADE  
OF >>>>  
ACTION**

## Nigeria: UN Humanitarian Coordinator Outraged At Attack Against Major Humanitarian Facility

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon, strongly condemns the attack by non-state armed groups against the main humanitarian accommodation in Ngala, in the north-eastern State of Borno. “I am outraged by the extremely violent attack on this key humanitarian facility where five United Nations staff were staying at the time of the incident,” stated the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon.

On the evening of Saturday 18 January, the humanitarian hub in Ngala was the direct target of a complex assault by heavily armed non-state armed groups operatives. An entire section of the facility was burned down as well as one of the few vehicles UN agencies rely on for movement and aid delivery. Protective security measures deployed at the humanitarian hub prevented any harm to the staff who was in the facility.

“I am shocked by the violence and intensity of this attack, which is the latest of too many incidents directly targeting humanitarian actors and the assistance we provide,” stressed the Humanitarian Coordinator. “I am relieved all staff is now safe and secure. Aid workers, humanitarian facilities and assets cannot be a target and must be protected and respected at all times.”

Aid workers are providing assistance to more than 55,000 people in the town of Ngala, near the border with Cameroon. In 2019, over 10,000 people arrived in Ngala, searching for security and basic services. Humanitarian hubs in Borno State are critical to the humanitarian response. They provide operating environ-



A burnt UN vehicle after the attack

ments for aid workers in remote locations where some of the most vulnerable people live or have sought refuge.

“Such incidents have a disastrous effect on the lives of the most vulnerable people who depend on our assistance to survive. Many of them had already fled violence in their area of origin and were hoping to find safety and assistance in Ngala. This also jeopardizes the ability for aid workers to stay and deliver assistance to the people most in need in remote areas in Borno State.”

“I call on all parties to the conflict to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality which guide the assistance the humanitarian community delivers in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.”

## Life After The Visitors Who Brought Destruction

*How displaced persons rebuild their lives as conflict continues to drive hunger in North East Nigeria*



Malam Maina Bulama

**M**alam Maina Bulama, 75, cannot forget the visitors who brought death and destruction. Four years ago, on the western banks of Lake Chad, Bulama’s

rural community in Abadam Local Government Area of Borno State, was targeted by armed fighters. Bulama suffered as a result of the violent attack: one of his wives died, and he is still searching for his oldest daughter.

Bulama fled his home with the rest of his family, leaving behind his vast acres of farmland and his herds of cattle. He is one of the nearly two million people driven from their homes by the 10-year-long conflict in North East Nigeria.

When he arrived in Azbak in Yobe State, over 300 km from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, he had no means to grow or buy food. He struggled to feed his family. They did not know where their next meal would come from.

“You cannot farm where you don’t have land,” says Bulama.

### Happy to farm again

But in the last year, he has returned to farming. The host community granted Bulama and other farmers free access to their most cherished possession — their farmland. They practice irrigation farming, with the support of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), which allows them to grow a variety of crops all year round. The displaced people produce fruits, vegetables and grains enough food to feed their families — and sell the surplus in the local markets rehabilitated by WFP to help boost the local economy.

“The people here have been very kind to us,” says a grateful Bulama. “I am lucky to return to farming, which is what I do best and feed my family. I produce rice, sorghum and vegetables; I would not have been able to do this without the assistance I am receiving,” he adds while harvesting his crops in his adopted village of Azbak.

### Water and peace

But farming in Nigeria’s north east, especially in Borno State, comes with its own challenges. Water is very scarce. Conflicts are quick to flare up when communities lack water to grow food and to feed their animals. Communal tension often escalates when displaced persons settle in host communities, putting enormous pressure on the scarce resource.

As part of its self-reliance projects for people uprooted by conflict and the communities hosting them, WFP has provided two boreholes, an irrigation system and water storage tanks in Azbak. This is helping to create a harmonious relationship between the members of the host community and the displaced people, like Bulama and his family, and contributing to an enabling environment for longer-term peacebuilding.

### Challenges ahead

However, an upsurge in violence has resulted in a fresh wave of displacement, cutting off access to farmlands essential for food and livelihoods in North East Nigeria. Nearly three million people are struggling to meet their food needs in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. This number could rise to more than 3.8 million people in the June-August lean season, if there isn’t sustained humanitarian assistance.

The USA, the UK, the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea and several other donors have provided contributions to support WFP operations in Nigeria. But with increasing conflict and rising hunger levels, more support is needed to continue providing life-changing assistance and helping to build peace in the North East.

## Borno, Lagos Celebrate International Day of Education 2020

To mark International Day of Education on 24 January, UNICEF Nigeria shone a light on the ongoing work to improve access to education in Nigeria, especially the north-east, while drawing attention to the millions of children who miss out on education that could help them build a bright future.

The 2020 theme 'Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace,' highlighted the integrated nature of education, its humanistic aims, as well as its centrality to our collective development ambitions. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, stipulates that every child has the right to an education. Together with partners, the UNICEF Nigeria Borno Field Office joined the global community in celebrating education. In partnership with the State Government and partners, a week-long programme of activities showcased the impact of education in Borno State.

In a series of vox pops, children, teachers, parents and community leaders talked about their vision of education in Borno; the series was transmitted on NTA, BRTV, Peace FM and Dandal Kura FM. Dr Clement Adams, Health Manager and Officer-in-Charge for the UNICEF Nigeria Borno Chief of Field Office; the Borno State Commissioner for Education, Hon. Ayuba Bello; and the Executive Chairman of the Borno State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) participated in the Vox Pop.

At a creative art workshop internally-displaced children and others from local public schools created striking designs depicting education as a light, a key, shelter, justice and cloth, among other themes. The workshop took place at the Government College, Maiduguri and the art projects were exhibited during International Day of Education celebrations.

"The protection of children's rights in humanitarian assistance benefits not only their future, but also the future of the societies in which they live. UNICEF Nigeria salutes the courage and investment of the Borno State Government and the support of the European Union (EU), United Kingdom Government (DFID), KfW, Education Cannot Wait, the Norwegian Government and other development partners who are supporting children in Borno," said Dr Clement Adams, Health Manager and Officer-in-Charge for the UNICEF Nigeria Borno Chief of Field Office.

Speaking at the event, the Permanent Secretary of the Borno State Ministry of Education, Alhaji Ali Kaka, who represented the Education Commissioner, lauded UNICEF Nigeria and donor agencies for ensuring that 1.2 million out-of-school children in the State enrol in school.

Kaka said the State Government, through Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA), is ensuring that all out-of-school children, including orphans and almajiris, return to school.

"Education is a powerful weapon. Change is not possible without education. We appreciate all humanitarian agencies for supporting us. We recognise your contribution. Insurgency has had a devastating impact on education. Government is building and reconstructing schools. Presently efforts by donor agencies are targeted at the primary and junior secondary levels. However, senior schools also need support, so that children can have a good background for higher institutions of learning."

Alhaji Ali Bukar Dogo, Director of School Support, SUBEB, advised parents to prioritise education. Alhaji Dogo, who represented the SUBEB Executive Director, also commended donor partners for supporting the 10-point agenda of the State Government.

### UNIC, Partners Mark Int'l Day of Education in Lagos

In Lagos, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria, collaborated with Lagos Education District III and Nurturance Charity Foundation, to organise an educational briefing of over 500 students on the theme, 'Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace.'



Children work on art projects at a Creative Arts Workshop for internally-displaced children and other schoolchildren at Government College, Maiduguri. UNICEF Nigeria/2020/Adebayo

"On this International Day, we are celebrating education's powerful influence on action in support of the four Ps on which our future depends: action for people, for prosperity, for the planet and for peace." Said the Director-General of UNESCO Ms Andrey Azoulay in her message delivered by the National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Nigeria, Oluseyi Soremekun at the commemoration of the International Education Day event held at Osborne's School Complex Ikoyi Lagos.

Ms Azoulay observed that education is the cornerstone of peace, an opening up to others, and a path of intelligence which leads to intercultural understanding, to reconciliation and fellowship.

The keynote speaker Mrs Abiola Seriki-Ayeni, Director-General Quality Assurance, Lagos State Ministry of Education call on all stakeholders to fulfil the role of ensuring education for all to break the cycle of poverty and help people's talents and realize creative potentials to promote harmony.

The Tutor-General /Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Education District III, Dr Olufolayimika Ayandele emphasized the need to ensure learning bring peace, development and friendly environment. She urged all students to see learning as a means for global and personal development.

Ms Abiola Bashorun, Founder of Nurturance Charity Foundation highlighted the benefits of learning and stated that Education is the bedrock of development in any society.

In his remarks, a Motivational Speaker, Mr Jimi Tewe, enjoined the students to be focused on their education and they would achieve whatever vision they had for themselves.

The commemoration was a celebration of the role of education as a valuable resource for humanity.



Tutor-General /Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Education District III, Dr Olufolayimika Ayandele; National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Nigeria, Oluseyi Soremekun; and Mrs Abiola Seriki-Ayeni, Director-General Quality Assurance, Lagos State Ministry of Education.

## UN, Partners Present Report on Women’s Participation in 2019 General Elections



A cross-section of key partners including UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms Comfort Lamptey (2nd from the left) and Minister of Women Affairs, Ms Pauline Tallen (Middle) displaying the report at the Ministry of Women Affairs

In the February 2019 general elections, Nigerian women took to the polls in significant numbers – as candidates, voters and campaign supporters alike, in what can only be described as an unprecedented show of commitment and confidence in the democratic process. The outcomes of the elections however severely dashed the hopes of millions of women who had expected to see a reversal in the downward trend of the level of representation in elected office. Resultantly, women currently hold only 4% of the seats at the National Assembly. As a whole, only 4.17% of women who contested in the general elections won their candidacy.

In an effort to take stock of the lessons learned from the 2019 elections for women, to inform a forward-looking strategy, UN Women partnered with key stakeholders to host a National Conference in June 2019, which brought together women politicians, political parties, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and international and national partners who provided support for the women’s political participation agenda during the elections. A detailed report of the National Conference was presented to the Honourable Minister of Women’s Affairs Dame Pauline Tallen on 13 January 2020, in Abuja, by a delegation led by the UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Comfort Lamptey.

The report titled Report and Strategy - National Conference on Women’s Political Participation in Nigeria: Post-2019 General Elections, provides a stock-taking of experiences and lessons learned as well as priority of key interventions that are needed to change the political fortunes for women in future elections, in Nigeria. In presenting the report to the Minister, Ms. Comfort Lamptey highlighted that the collaborative approach employed by partners and stakeholders who supported the national conference in June 2019, was a noteworthy practice which needed to be sustained in the lead-up to the 2023 general elections.

The Honorable Minister of Women’s Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, described the presentation of the report as a historic activity, citing 2020 as the Year of Action for Women. She emphasized the need for a partnership approach and noted that, “Ahead of the 2023 elections, we need to begin strategizing and we must leverage on our partnership with INEC”.

Amongst others, the report recommend the transformation of policy and legal frameworks for gender sensitivity in Nigeria’s

political process, the promotion of women’s effective participation in mainstream and political processes, movement building, prevention of violence against women in politics and elections, developing and strengthening funding mechanisms, as key interventions necessary to enhance the representation of women in politics.

Proposed areas of partnership outlined in the report, which are expected to facilitate the implementation of its outcomes, include the institution of a mechanism to sustain partnership collaboration among key stakeholders under the leadership of the Minister of Women’s Affairs; strong partnership with INEC; and building synergies with other development partners committed to supporting the women’s political participation agenda in Nigeria.

### Call for Applications: Int’l Women’s Month 2020 - March Women’s Shadowing Scheme

To commemorate International Women’s Month in March 2020 and the global #GenerationEquality campaign, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, supported by UN Women, has launched the March Women’s Shadowing Scheme for young Nigerian aspiring women leaders.

This experience-learning and networking initiative connects aspiring female leaders with trailblazing female professionals from across the world of diplomacy, development and the private sector. Convinced of the power of experience-sharing to propel professional and personal development, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs is seeking out young female aspiring leaders with an aptitude for learning and a passion for advancing women and girls’ rights in Nigeria.

Participants will benefit from a one-week shadowing experience with a designated host during the month of March 2020; gaining insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of a high-level professional.

The March Women’s Shadowing Scheme is open to Nigerian women aged 18 – 29 living in Nigeria.

Please see details of how to apply at <https://nigeria.un.org/en/34998-international-womens-month-2020-march-womens-shadowing-scheme-call-applications>.

# PHOTO NEWS



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2020 AND BEYOND

English

## HAVE YOUR SAY. SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

To mark its 75th anniversary, the United Nations is launching a global conversation on the role of international cooperation in building the future we want.

TAKE THE SURVEY



**Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction:**

1. European Union Commissioner for Crisis Management, Mr Janez Lenarcic; Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management & Social Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Hajija Sadiya Umar Farouq; and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon at the high level cooperation meeting in Abuja
2. UNDP Representative in Nigeria, Mr Mohamed Yahya (Left) and Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu exchange pleasantries at the Governor's Office in Lagos recently.



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