

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2ND PLENARY SESSION OF
THE NIGERIA/GERMAN BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 20TH - 21ST OCTOBER, 2014
IN BERLIN GERMANY**

The 2nd Plenary Session of the Nigeria-German Bi-National Commission was held on 21st October, 2014. The Nigerian delegation to the session was led by the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Aminu Bashir Wali, mni, CON, while the German delegation was led by Foreign Minister of Germany, Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeter.

2. The Nigeria-German Bi-National Commission deliberated under the following working groups:-

1. Political Consultation Working Group
2. Economic Relations Working Group
3. Power and Energy Working Group
4. Culture, Education and Migration Working Group.

3. The outcome of the deliberations of the working groups were presented at the Plenary of the 2nd Session, chaired by both Foreign Ministers.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Power, Ambassador GodknowsIgali, chaired and presented the report of the working group on Power and Energy, while Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment Ambassador Abdulkabir A. Musa, chaired and presented the

report of the working group on Economic Relations. Ambassador Dankano presented the report of the Political working group while the German side presented the report on Culture, Education and Migration.

4. On the Political consultations Working Group, both sides agreed to continue to collaborate on the promotion of good governance, democratic development, including the 2015 general elections, National dialogue Conference and Human Rights, cooperation with the Nigerian Police and Armed Forces; Crisis Management and Border Management. They also agreed to continue the high level contacts between the military and security establishments of both countries, as well as training for members of the Armed Forces by their German counterparts.

Regional security featured prominently during the talks. Efforts by both countries to manage civil, social and health security threats in Nigeria and the West African sub-region were highlighted. Germany and Nigeria have resolved to further cooperate in these areas towards ensuring sustainable peace, security and development in Nigeria and the sub-region, which will equally impact global security.

5. On the Economic Relations Working Group, both sides agreed on mutually-beneficial integrated action towards exploiting opportunities for trade and investment between the two countries. To this end, a Nigeria/German Investment Forum was held where investment opportunities in both countries were highlighted.

The Working Group emphasized on the following:-

- Both sides agreed to resolve issues relating to Withholding Tax before the end of December, 2014;
- commence discussions on Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement from first quarter of 2015;
- Cooperate in eradicating of counterfeiting of Fake drugs. Nigeria to set up a task force;
- Germany will partner with Industrial Training Fund and National Directorate of Employment On skills acquisition;
- Nigeria to participate at sector specific trade fairs for the acquisition of expertise and equipment for SME's;
- Innovation Centre for food sector and Agriculture to be established under the One World Without Hunger Initiative of the German Government.
- German side noted the establishment of the Nigerian Economic Development Bank, and will help in capacity building on technical know-how.

6. On the **Power and Energy Working Group**, both sides agreed that Energy is a key sector and reviewed the contributions of the Nigeria/Germany Energy partnership relationships established eight years ago, and also noted the successful privatization of the Power sector of Nigeria and acknowledged the support of the GIZ towards this process. They also noted the recent commissioning of the Azzura Power Plant by President GoodluckEbele Jonathan which was built with major German Company participation. The Nigerian side noted that going forward, cooperation should focus on renewable energy, micro systems, investments in the provision of power in the Agricultural Processing Zones and investment in the building of power plants in Gas flaring

areas. Nigeria side acknowledged the setting up of the Green Credit line of 300million euros by Germany to encourage small scale investors in the power sector.

7. On the **Education and Culture Working Group**, both sides acknowledged the importance of fostering educational and cultural relationship between Nigeria and Germany in the areas of Research, Information Communication Technology, Media Exchanges and Educational linkages. Three Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were submitted by the Nigerian side towards this end. It was agreed that in furtherance of this German Academic Exchange Services emphasizing on Vocational Skills for graduates as well as joint scholarship schemes will be set up. Both sides also agreed to collaborate on International films production, mindful of the growth and impact of the Nigerian Film Industry (Nollywood) in recent times.

8. On the Migration sub-group, both sides expressed satisfaction on the implementation of existing protocol; and to support each other on issues of irregular migration, while reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening of collaboration and cooperation in line with the Joint Declaration of intent based on international best practices and understanding in migration issues between both countries. Both sides also agreed to encourage more voluntary return as best policy under their partnership through giving of incentives in the area of Vocational Training and counselling.

9. The 3rd Plenary Session was agreed to hold in Nigeria in 2015 at a mutually agreed date that will be communicated through the Diplomatic channel.

Joint Commission Trade & Investment (JCTID)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Abuja.

21st October, 2014